Venus Versus Virus

4

Seven Seas

"THIS IS ONE ADVENTURE NO ONE SHOULD MISS."
– ADVANCED MEDIA NETWORK

As Venus Vangard squares off against Sonoka's evil minions, Sumire's berserker powers spiral out of control... and it's Lucia who's caught in the middle! But when the smoke clears, it's our heroes who are left worse for wear. Can Lucia and Sumire's friendship survive this latest hurdle? Don't miss the volume that changes everything!

OLDER TEEN (16+)
$9.99 USA
($10.99 CAN)
ISBN 978-1-933164-93-9
50999>
9 781933 164939

WWW.GOMANGA.COM

MANGA

Seven Seas

Venus versus Virus

Illustrated by Atsushi Suzumi

Venus Versus Virus

ヴィーナス ヴァーサス ヴァイアラス

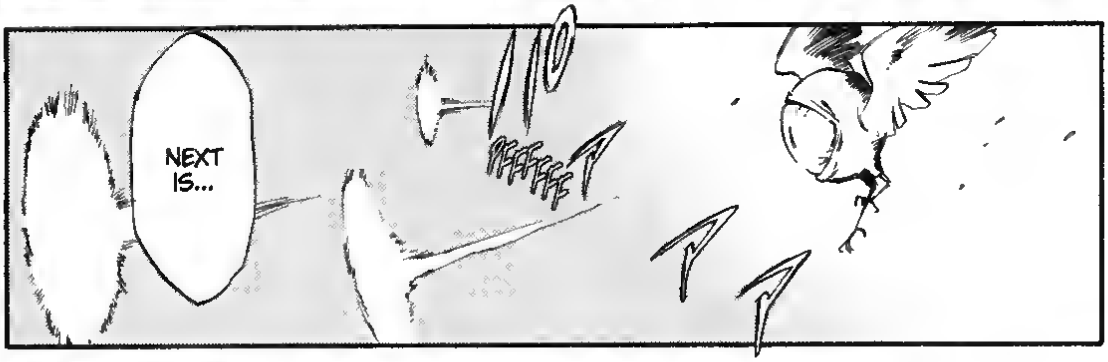
VOLUME 4

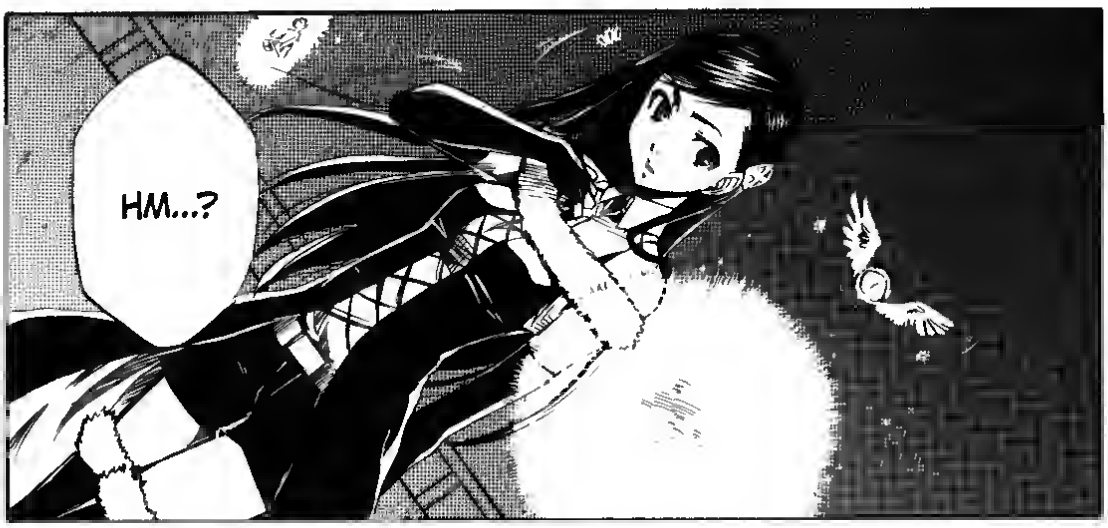
CONTENTS

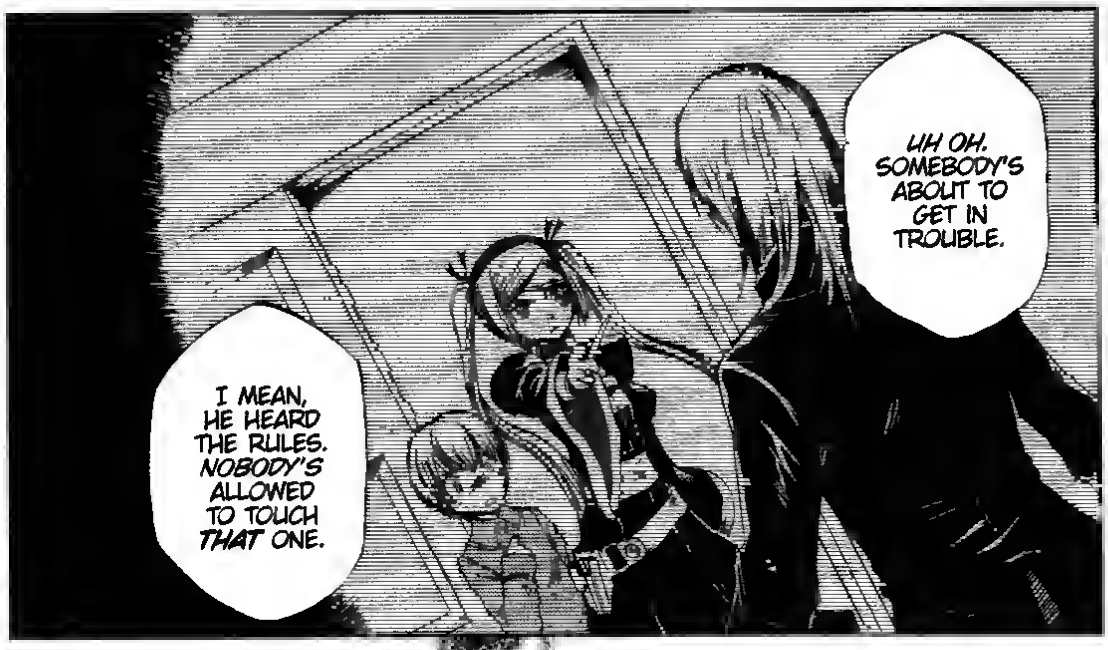
Piece 15:	Misery. Aims.	003
Piece 16:	Similar. Different.	047
Piece 17:	Alienation. Confusion.	091
Piece 18:	Sweetness. Landmines.	135

WAP
♪
THAT SHOULD JUST ABOUT DO IT FOR THIS AREA, I THINK.
PSSSSSH

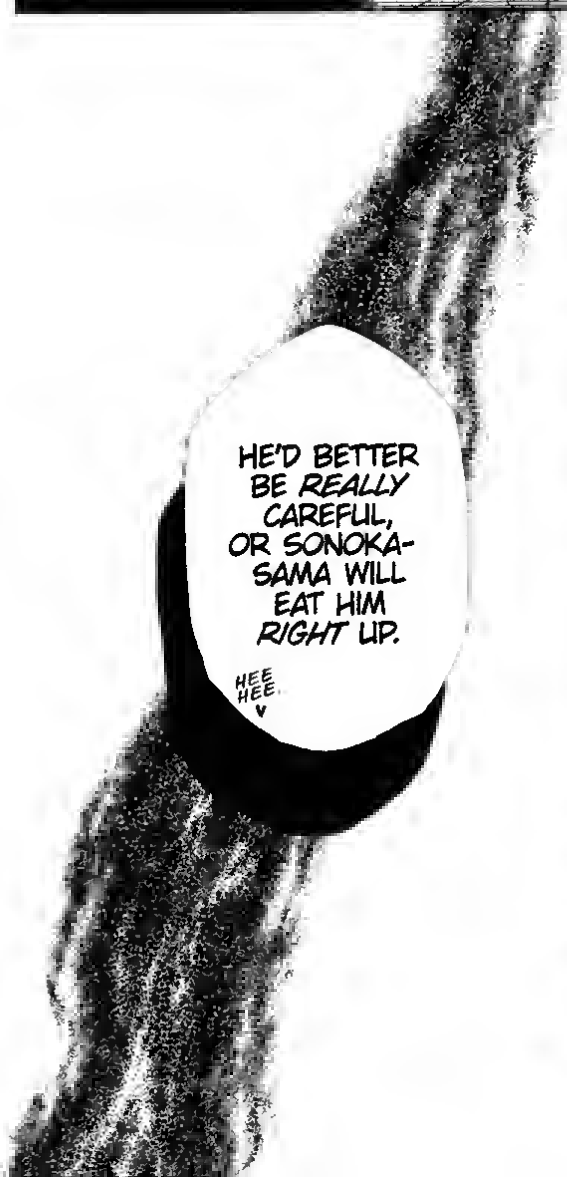
THERE.
TINK


NEXT IS...
C-10
PFFFFFFF


HM...?


I MEAN, HE HEARD THE RULES. NOBODY'S ALLOWED TO TOUCH THAT ONE.
UH OH. SOMEBODY'S ABOUT TO GET IN TROUBLE.

STUPID GUY...


HE'D BETTER BE REALLY CAREFUL, OR SONOKA-SAMA WILL EAT HIM RIGHT UP.
HEE HEE

Piece 15
MISERY. AIMS.

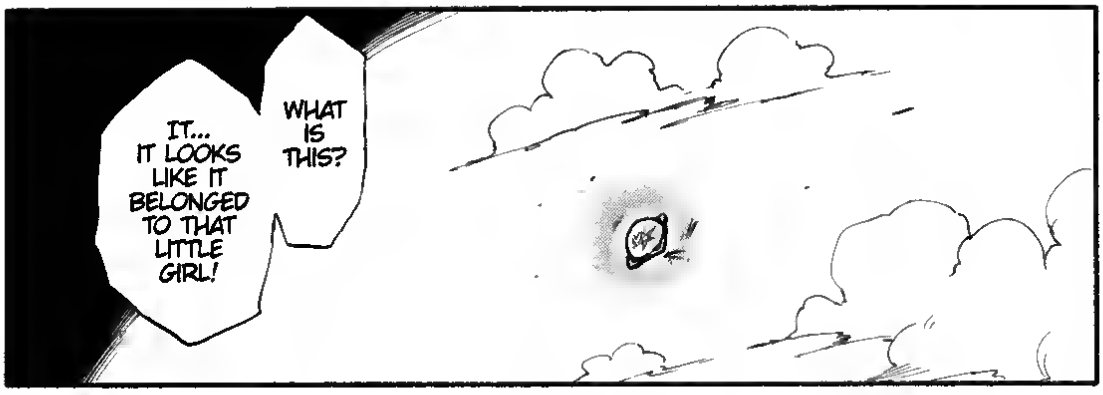
ｶｸ
!

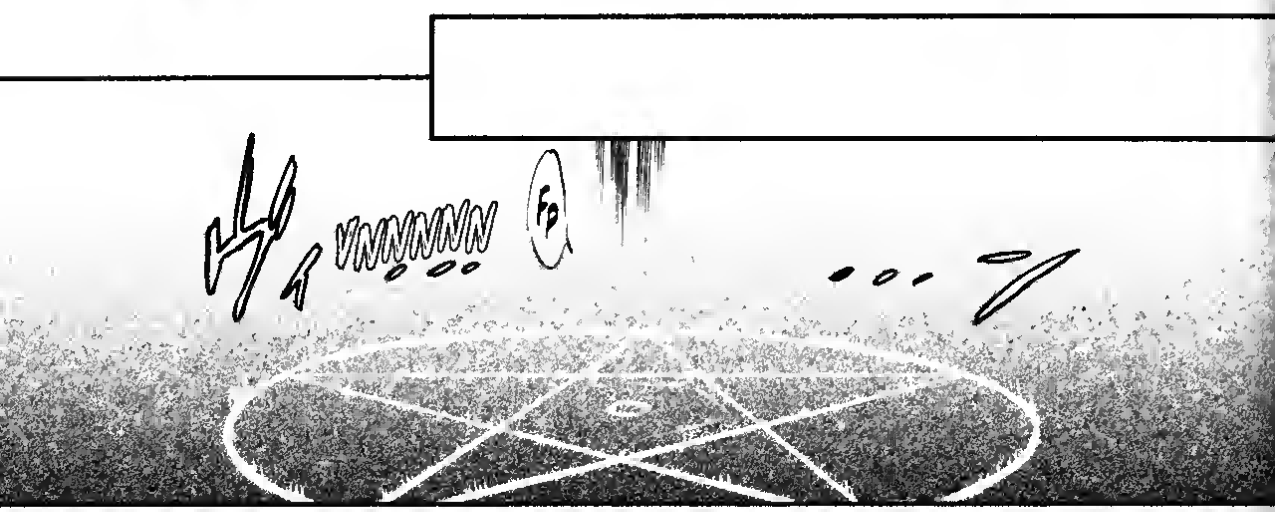
A SCENT...?
AHA! OVER THERE!
FWOOOSH
FSH

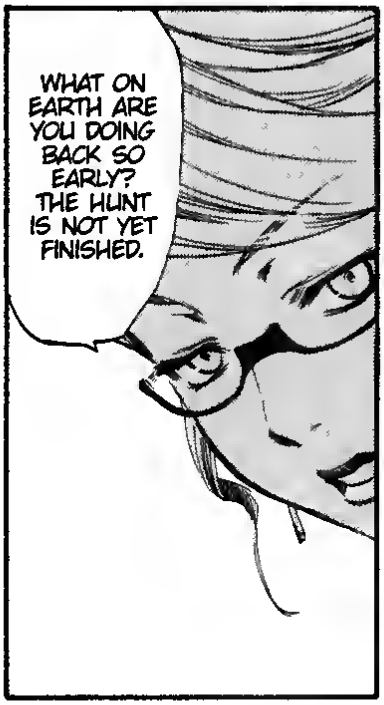
!
TMP
NH...
NAHASHI-SAN!!
!!
THAT DOESN'T LOOK "ALL RIGHT" TO ME! HERE, LET ME BANDAGE YOUR--
NO...
I'M FINE, SUMIRE-KUN. HONESTLY.
?!
BUT...
YES, I AM FINE... THOUGH, I AM AFRAID OUR HUNTER GOT A...
NG...!
WSH
VMMM
OH MY GOD, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!

BUT I CAN'T JUST LEAVE YOU HERE!
IF WE DON'T MOVE QUICKLY, WE MIGHT LOSE EVERY-- NPH... EVERY-ONE!
YOU MUST HURRY AND STOP THEM.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME. THERE ARE OTHER, FAR MORE PRESSING MATTERS.
I HAVE PUT UP A KEKKAI THAT WILL CAMOU-FLAGE ME. I'M NOT IN ANY DANGER.
STILL... I MUST INSIST.
ONCE I'VE RESTED FOR A MOMENT OR TWO, I...SHOULD BE FINE. THE LANDLORD WILL NEVER EVEN KNOW I WAS HERE.
SO PLEASE... GO.
NO! NOT AT ALL!
!
I MUST BE QUITE THE BURDEN TO YOU RIGHT NOW.
I AM SORRY, SUMIRE-KUN...
I'LL HAVE THESE HUNTERS STOPPED BEFORE THE NIGHT'S OVER!!
TK
TMP
SINCE YOU INSIST...
.....

SUMIRE-KUN...?
!!
SIIIIIK
UGK ...!
BA-THM
AH!
IMPOS-SIBLE!
DON'T TELL ME SHE'S OVER-DOSING ON VACCINE!
HER CONTROL MUST BE GETTING TENUOUS!
THIS IS BAD! AT THIS RATE, SHE MAY LOSE IT COM-PLETELY!
WOOO
.....?
FWOOOOO
TP
LET'S DO THIS.

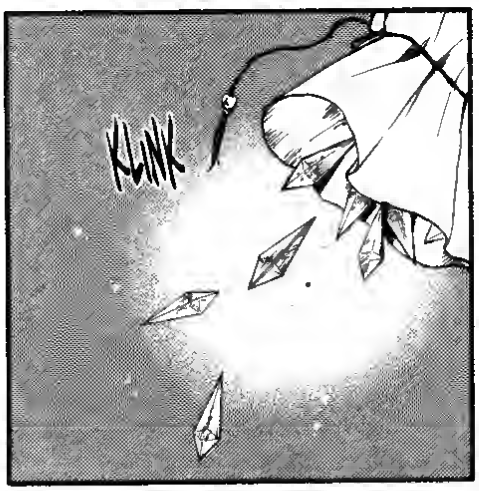

WHAT IS THIS?
IT... IT LOOKS LIKE IT BELONGED TO THAT LITTLE GIRL!

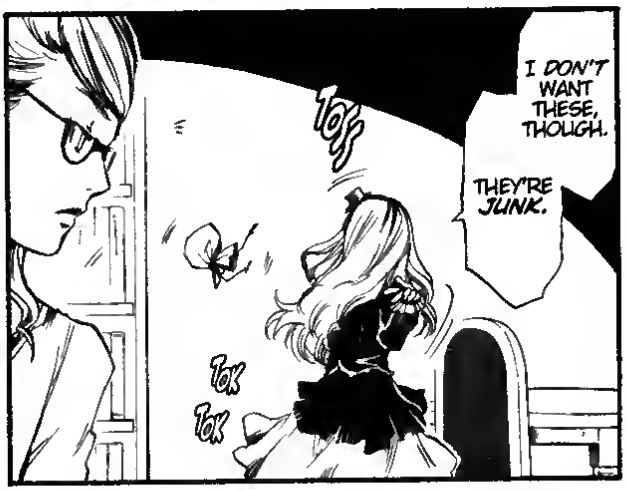

VNNNNN
fp


WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU DOING BACK SO EARLY? THE HUNT IS NOT YET FINISHED.

!?
LAYLA.
fp

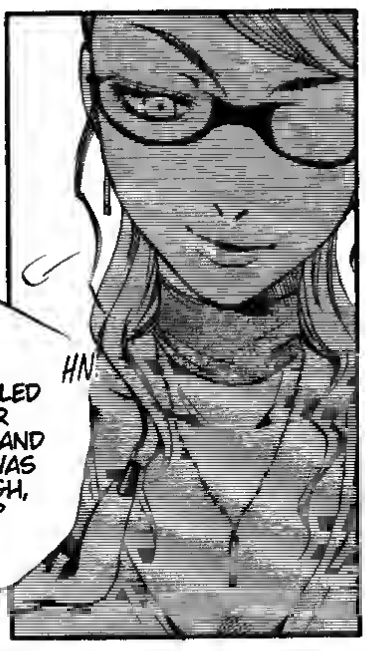
I WANT MY TEA AND CAKE.
BUT IT'S TEA TIME.


KLINK


I DON'T WANT THESE, THOUGH.
THEY'RE JUNK.
TOK
TOK
TOK

TWITCH

YOU FILLED YOUR QUOTA AND THAT WAS ENOUGH, HM?


HN.

TONIGHT IS A WONDERFUL NIGHT. DON'T YOU THINK SO, SONOKA?
VMM
VMM
!
...
!!
TP
TP
Y-YES... A SPLENDID NIGHT, TRULY.

WITH ALL THE BEAUTIFULLY FALLING STARS...
IT IS THE PERFECT NIGHT FOR HUNTING.
TMD
TMD
TMD
TMD
TMD
TOK
SKFF
WHA...
WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME?!
WHUD
KYAA AAA AAA!!

OOOH !!
I LOVE THAT LOOK ON YOU. IT'S SO CUTE! ❤
HFF
HFF
HFF
HFF
YES, THAT'S IT.
SHOW ME MORE. I WANT TO SEE YOU LOOK EVEN MORE ADORABLY AFRAID.
'KAY? ❤
TWITCH
SWF
WHISH

KRAK
FSH
NGH!
MY, MY...
HFF
HFF
.....?!
?
?

SWF
TOK
YOU LOOK ALL OUT OF BREATH, SUMIRE-CHAN.
DID YOU RUN UNTIL IT HURT, JUST TO COME SEE ME?
I'M SOOO FLAT-TERED!
RUKA ...

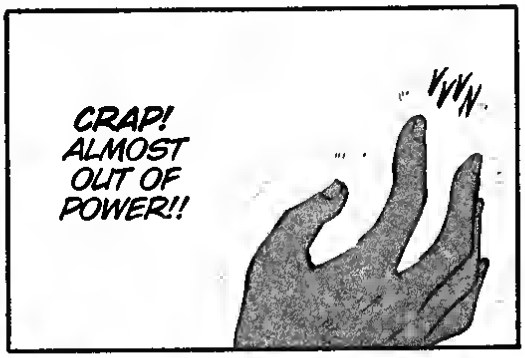
I'M NOT LETTING YOU GET AWAY FROM ME AGAIN!

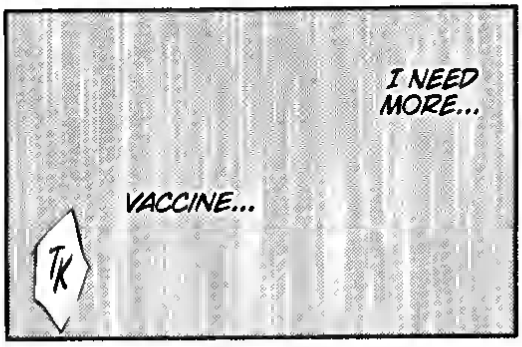
IS THAT A CONFES-SION?
HEE
HEE
OOOH!
SUMIRE-CHAN, YOU'RE SO BOLD!
GLARE
FLASH
STOP MESSING AROUND!!
GRRRR
KRAK

?!
WATER, HEED ME!
SWOOOOSH
FWSH
I ALREADY TOLD YOU, I'M NOT IN THE MOOD TONIGHT.
GLANG
HAH!
YOU'RE GETTING BETTER!
BUT...
USING WATER AS A CONDUCTOR TO GROUND MY LIGHTNING... CLEVER!
PUSH

SKRAK
EEK!
YEE ...!
RRGH!!

SKRAK


CRAP! ALMOST OUT OF POWER!!
VVVN

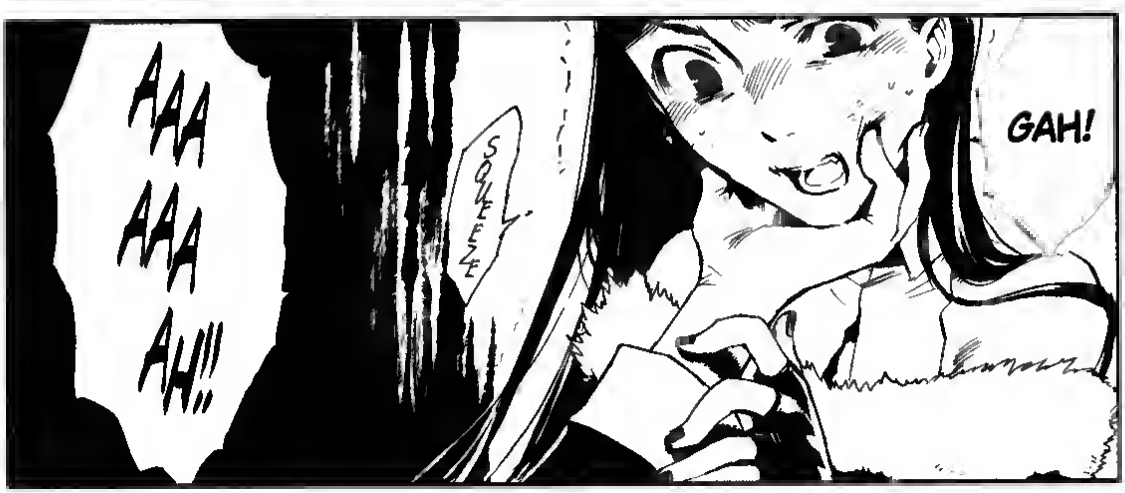

I NEED MORE...
VACCINE...
TK

NGK ...!
HUH ...?
SLMP
.....?
WHAT NEW GAME IS THIS, HM?
HEH HEH HEH...
オオオオ WOOOOO...

?!
SWEEP
THERE...
I'VE FOUND IT.
SNEER
THAT LOVELY ...
LICK
SHIF
SWEET SCENT.

HUH ...?
?!
TOK
SHKR
BUT NOW, YOU ARE GOING TO RUN AWAY FROM ME?
THAT'S HARDLY FAI--
THMP
OH MY.
WHAT'S THIS? I THOUGHT YOU SAID I WASN'T GOING TO GET AWAY.

SHUT. UP.

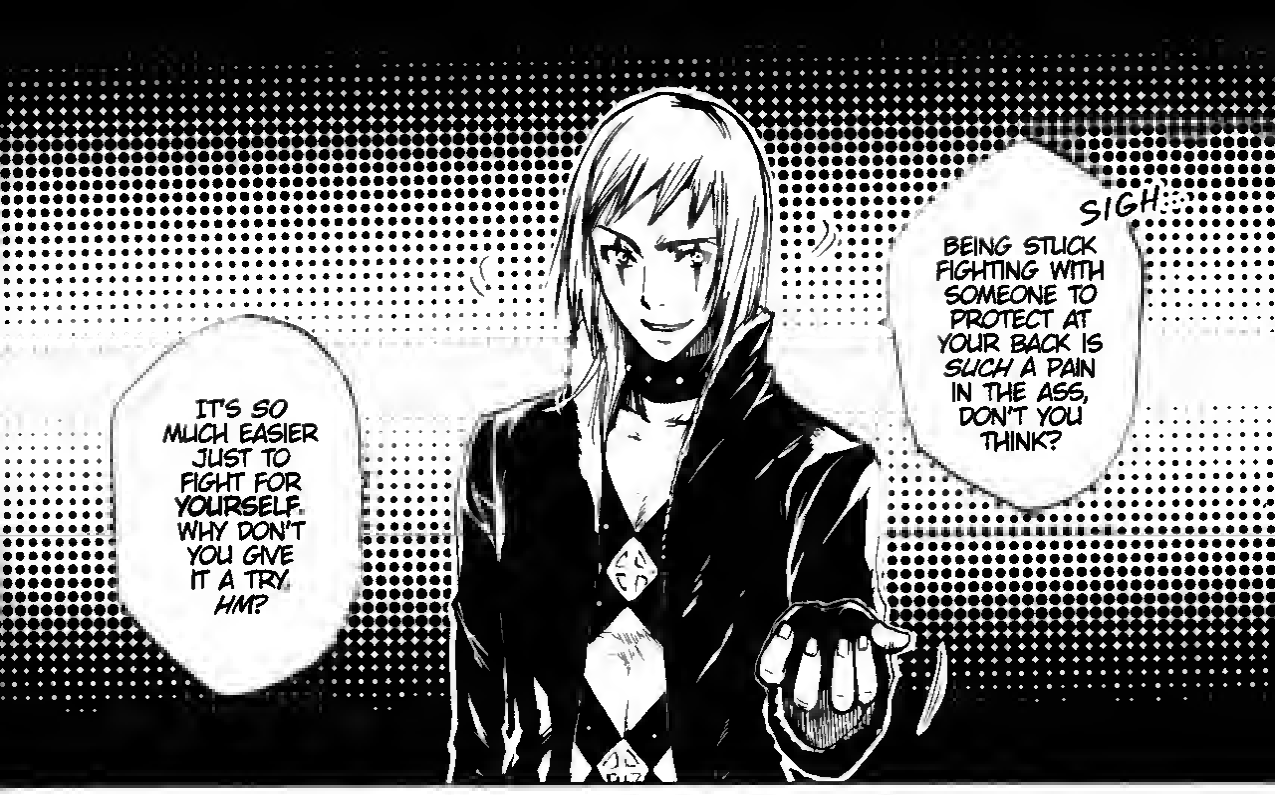

AAA AAA AH!!
SQUEEZE
GAH!

RUBBISH.
TOSS
WSH
KYAAA!
THEY'RE ALL MONS-TERS!!
THD
UPH...
WHAT DID YOU CALL ME...?
FWISH

DAMMIT! MY GUN DOESN'T WORK ON THIS CREEP!!
HN!
TCHING

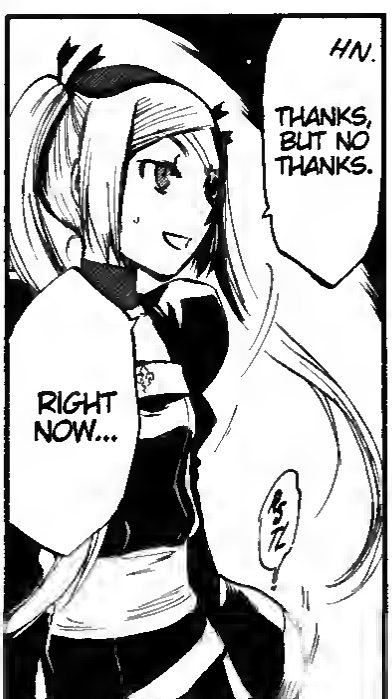
HEY! NOT BAD, NOT BAD!
SHFL
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO BEAT HIM NOW?!
HII
SKFF
!!

BUT, Y'KNOW ...
IT'S TOO BAD. REALLY.
HE
HE
YOU'RE HANGING IN THERE PRETTY GOOD WITH JUST A DINKY KNIFE.
IS IT A HOLY DAGGER OR SOME-THING?
WOOSH
!!
'CAUSE PLAYIN' DEFENSE NEVER WON NOBODY NOTHIN'!!
CHNG
CHNG
AT THIS RATE, YOUJI-KUN COULD WIND UP GETTING CAUGHT IN THE CROSS-FIRE.
I NEED TO CHANGE THINGS UP, AND FAST!
LUCIA-NEECHAN!
RRRGH ...
!!
SHFL


SIGH...
BEING STUCK FIGHTING WITH SOMEONE TO PROTECT AT YOUR BACK IS *SUCH* A PAIN IN THE ASS, DON'T YOU THINK?
IT'S *SO* MUCH EASIER JUST TO FIGHT FOR YOURSELF. WHY DON'T YOU GIVE IT A TRY, *HM?*

I MEAN, IT'S THE PUREST FORM OF FREEDOM...
AND THE GREATEST *HIGH EVER!*

I HAVE NO INTENTION OF *EVER* BEING LIKE YOU!
SWUFF


HN.
THANKS, BUT NO THANKS.
RIGHT NOW...

SHF
.....
!
FWUP
AND NOW HIDE AND SEEK?
SILENCE
FIRST TAG...
SHFF
FWSHH
YOU GOT THAT...
YOU'RE SERIOUSLY INSULTING ME IF YOU THINK THIS LITTLE STUNT IS GONNA HELP YOU AT ALL!
THAT DOES IT. THAT REALLY DOES IT.

LITTLE MISSY?!!
FWOOO
TOK
!!
BUMP

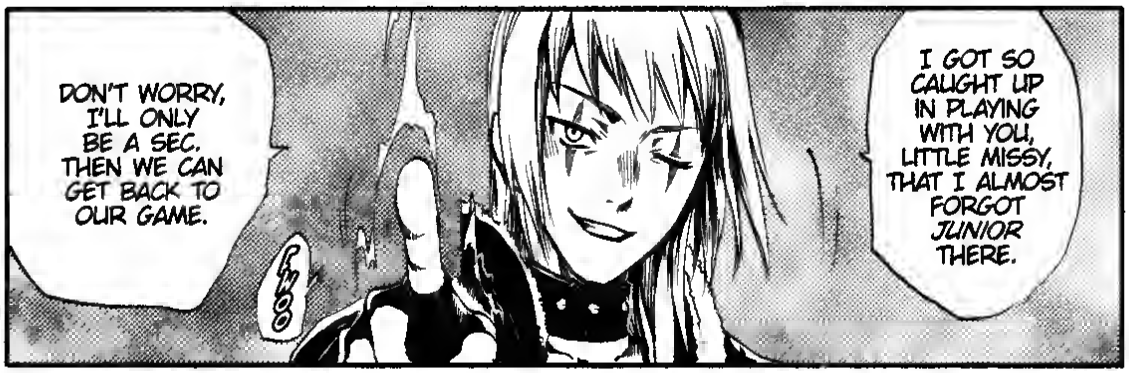
FSSSSSSSS
FOUND YA! ☆
SSS
SHFL
LAVA...?!
SHFL
……!!
BLUP
PSSSSS

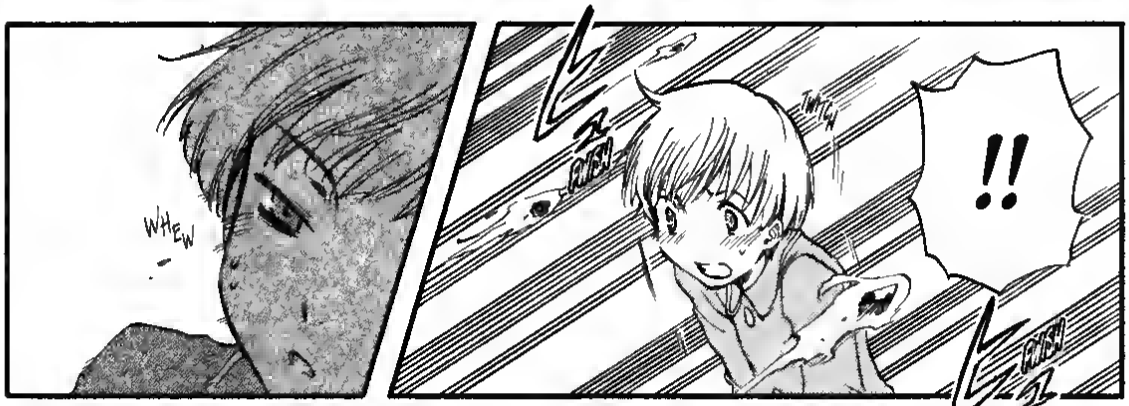
PATTER
PATTER
すたん
TMD
ドン
SHOVE
WAH
!!
CLICK
カチャ
カチャ
!…?!
BE A GOOD BOY AND STAY THERE, OKAY?

BLIT, LUCIA-NEECHAN ...
!!
CLANK
TMP
WSH
SWING
HN!
GRAB
?!

WELL?
HOW'S THIS FOR A STRONG, WARM EMBRACE?
!!
HOO
FEELS SO GOOD, YOU'RE JUST GONNA MELT, HMM?
!!
TWITCH
AAAGH!!
DON'T MOVE!!
LU...!!

WHOOPS!! SORRY, SORRY!
STAY RIGHT WHERE YOU...
...!!


DON'T WORRY, I'LL ONLY BE A SEC. THEN WE CAN GET BACK TO OUR GAME.
I GOT SO CAUGHT UP IN PLAYING WITH YOU, LITTLE MISSY, THAT I ALMOST FORGOT JUNIOR THERE.


WHEW
!!

LOST.
GET...

WHAM
TRASH.
LUCIA-SAN...
UNF ...!
THUD
CAN I HAVE IT NOW?
WHEW!
SUMIRE! AM I EVER GLAD TO SEE--

SHUDDER
OH CRAP! SHE'S LOST CONTROL!

THAT "LIGHT" INSIDE YOU...

CAN I HAVE IT RIGHT NOW?
I'LL EVEN DESTROY THIS ANNOYING VESSEL THAT TRAPS IT FOR YOU.

THEN WE CAN FINALLY BECOME ONE.
SHLK
BTHMD
AHH...
WHA ?!

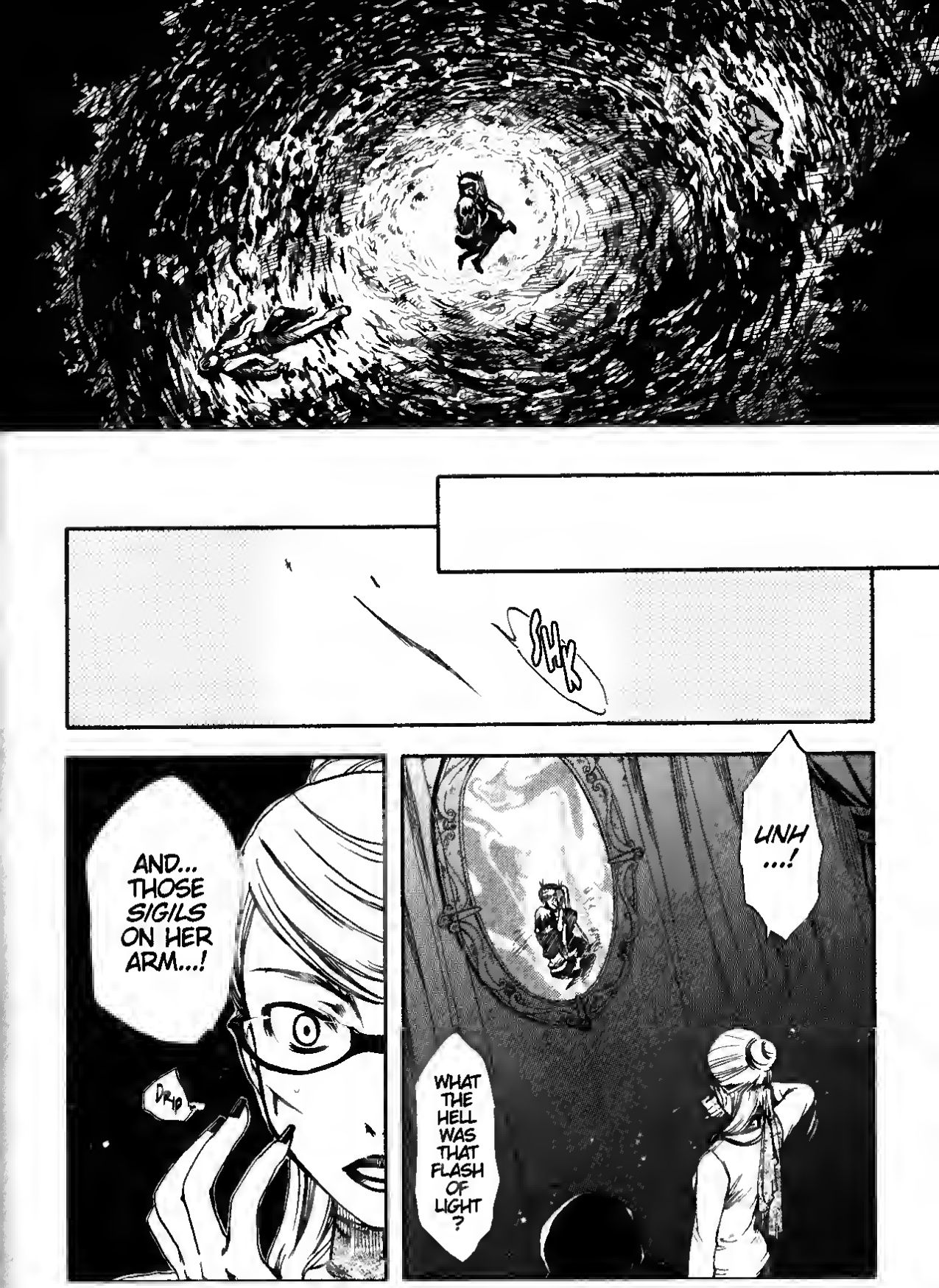
.....
GLARE
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU CAN HAVE HER?
EVEN I'M NOT ALLOWED TO TOUCH THAT ONE.
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, BITCH? BACK OFF.
!!
WHAT THE... HEY! DON'T IGNORE ME!!
GRR!
HMPH
AAH...
NNH...
BTHMP
BTHMP
BTHMP

!!
HURRY... LET US BECOME ONE...
RGH...
SHRIP
PLAP

WRITHING DARKNESS...
BA-THUMP
WAIT! THERE, IN THE FARTHEST REACHES OF IT!
N-NO!
IT'S GONNA COME OUT...
SO BEAUTI-FUL...
NO! DON'T LOOK... SUMIRE !!

?!
?
AH...
AHH...
AAH...
AAAA AAAA AHH!!!
FWAAAAAA

?!
WHAT THE...?!
HOLY--
GYAAAAA!!
FASH
SLUMP
NH...


SLAM
AND... THOSE SIGILS ON HER ARM...!
DRIP
UNH ...!
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT FLASH OF LIGHT?

HFF
HFF
IS...
IS THAT GIRL...?
YES... "THE GATE"!!

Jewelry
and
Clothes

Venus Vangard

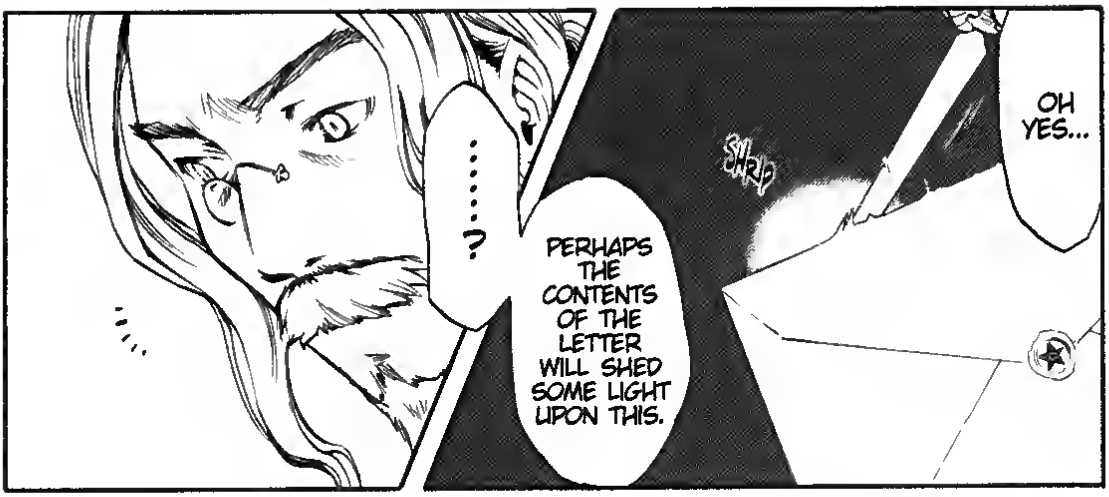
HEY, DID YOU HEAR? ABOUT, YOU KNOW... THAT ONE GIRL FROM 1-C?
OH, HER? YOU BET I HEARD!
EVERYBODY'S SAYING SHE RAN AWAY FROM HOME.
YEAH.
BUT DID YOU HEAR THE OTHER RUMOR? THE ONE THAT'S KINDA FREAKY.
THERE'S ANOTHER ONE?
YEAH. THERE'S BEEN A WHOLE BUNCH OF MISSING PEOPLE, AND UNEXPLAINED FIRES AND GAS EXPLOSIONS LATELY, RIGHT? WELL...
THEY SAY MOST OF THEM ALL HAPPENED ON THE SAME NIGHT THAT GIRL DISAPPEARED.

SEVERAL DAYS HAVE PASSED SINCE THAT TERRIFYING NIGHT.
MYSELF AND THE GIRLS CAME AWAY WITH DEEP WOUNDS AS WELL...
THE VAST MAJORITY HAVE LOST THEIR FRAGMENT TO OUR ENEMIES, BECOMING VIRUSES.
OF ALL THE PEOPLE IN THIS AREA WHO HAVE VISION...
ONES BOTH PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL. ONES THAT WILL BE A LONG TIME IN HEALING.

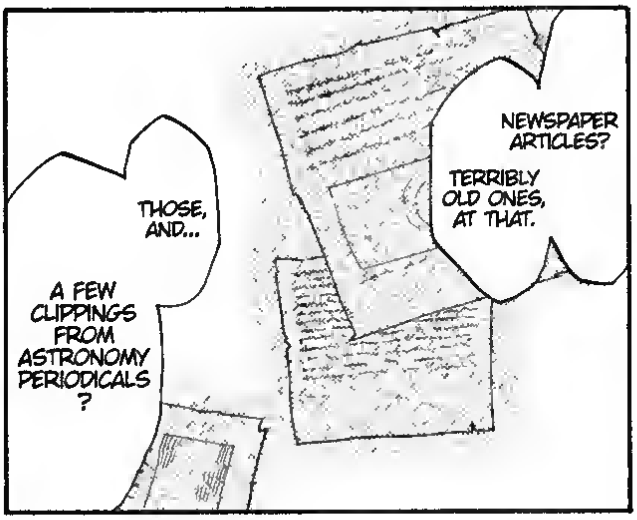
Piece 16
SIMILAR. DIFFERENT.

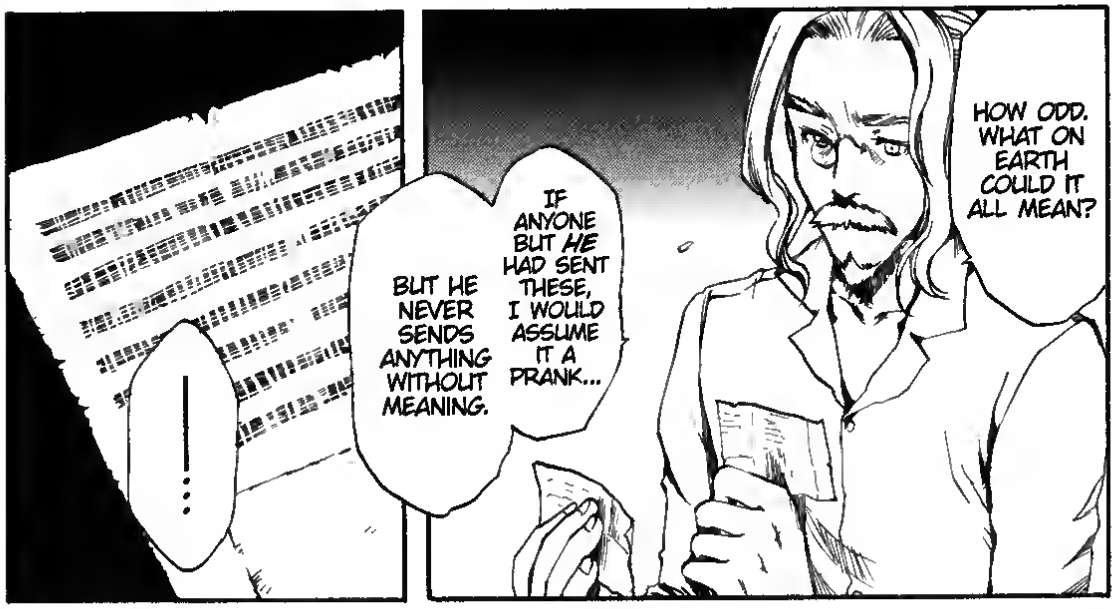
NOR DOES OUR SITUATION HELP.
NOT ONLY ARE OUR NEW ENEMIES POWERFUL, BUT WE ALSO HAVE NO IDEA WHEN, WHERE OR HOW THEY MAY STRIKE AGAIN.
SUCH TENSE CIRCUMSTANCES ARE HARD ON EVEN A HEALTHY BODY.
HAVING TO ENDURE IT WHILE INJURED IS DOUBLY DIFFICULT. WE CANNOT EVEN REST AND HEAL IN PEACE.
NOK
.....
TWITCH
A KNOCK AT THE DOOR?
PERHAPS A NEW CLIENT?
.....?
INTERESTING. A LETTER FOR ME? PAR AVION, NO LESS.

?!
AH!
HMM. I KNOW I'VE SEEN THIS SEAL BEFORE, BUT WHERE...
FWIP
THEY DO MATCH...
.....!
TINK
STAFF U
YES! THAT'S RIGHT!
COULD IT TRULY BE NOTHING MORE THAN MERE COINCIDENCE...?
I KNEW THE SYMBOL ENGRAVED UPON IT LOOKED FAMILIAR, BUT THIS...!
THE BUTTON DROPPED BY THAT YOUNG GIRL...


OH YES...
SHUFF
PERHAPS THE CONTENTS OF THE LETTER WILL SHED SOME LIGHT UPON THIS.
.....?

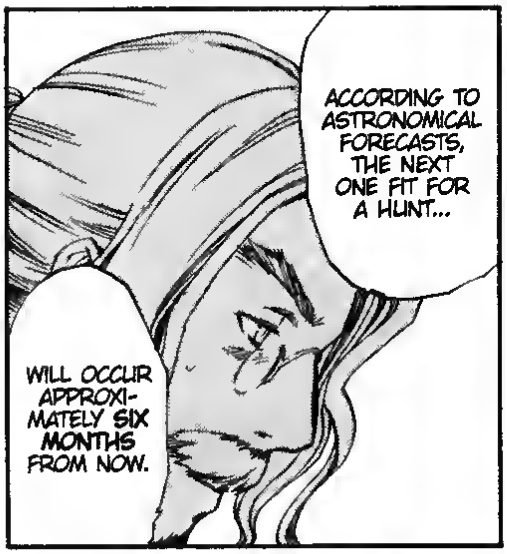
NOTHING ELSE. JUST THESE CLIPPINGS.
.....


NEWSPAPER ARTICLES?
TERRIBLY OLD ONES, AT THAT.
THOSE, AND...
A FEW CLIPPINGS FROM ASTRONOMY PERIODICALS ?

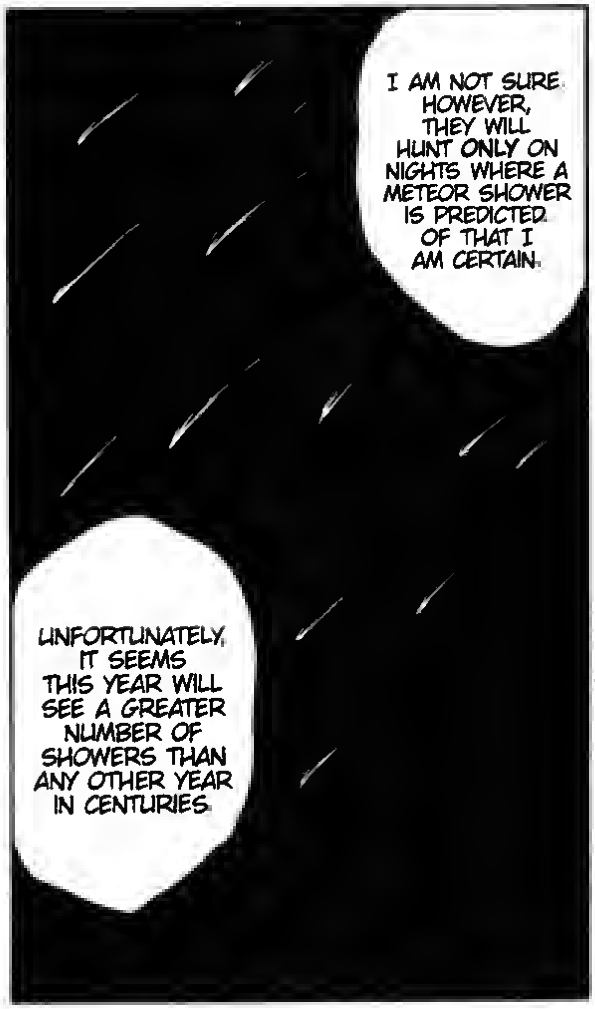

HOW ODD. WHAT ON EARTH COULD IT ALL MEAN?
IF ANYONE BUT *HE* HAD SENT THESE, I WOULD ASSUME IT A PRANK...
BUT HE NEVER SENDS ANYTHING WITHOUT MEANING.
!...

NH...!
WAIT!!
WHM
.....!
GLANCE
NO. IT COULDN'T BE. BUT...
はW?
A METEOR SHOWER?

BUT... WHY? HOW?
IT SEEMS OUR ENEMY'S MOVEMENTS ARE DIRECTLY CONNECTED WITH THE RECENT METEOR SHOWERS.
YES.


ACCORDING TO ASTRONOMICAL FORECASTS, THE NEXT ONE FIT FOR A HUNT...
WILL OCCUR APPROXI-MATELY SIX MONTHS FROM NOW.

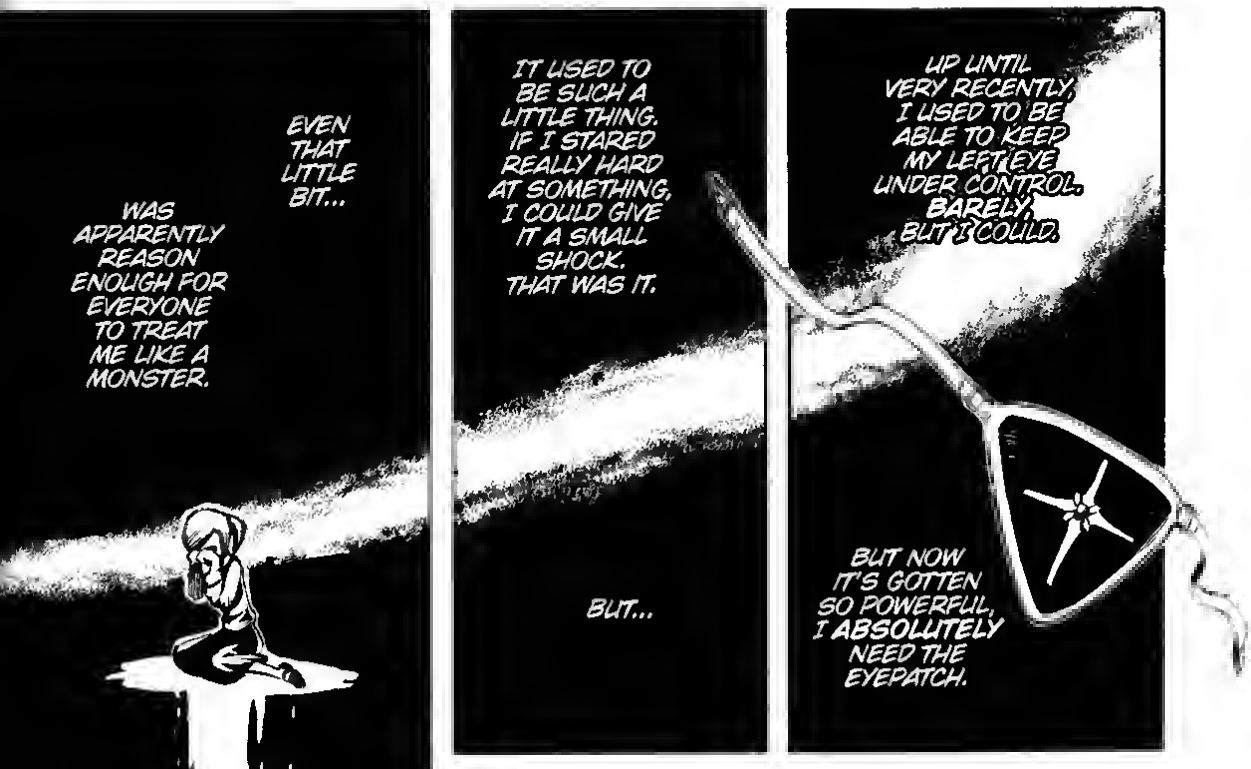
HALF A YEAR?
WE HAVE THAT MUCH TIME?
HMMM


I AM NOT SURE. HOWEVER, THEY WILL HUNT ONLY ON NIGHTS WHERE A METEOR SHOWER IS PREDICTED. OF THAT I AM CERTAIN.
UNFORTUNATELY, IT SEEMS THIS YEAR WILL SEE A GREATER NUMBER OF SHOWERS THAN ANY OTHER YEAR IN CENTURIES.

.....
YES.
WE HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO REST, RIGHT?
THEN THAT MEANS...
!
AH! UM...
SHK
GREAT.
I'M GOING TO SLEEP. GOOD NIGHT.
WELL THEN...
.....
YES, SIR...
YOU SHOULD GET SOME REST AS WELL, SUMIRE-KUN.
TNK
IT IS A MUCH NEEDED BREAK. IN FACT, I THINK I SHALL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT MYSELF.

SHFF
SHVR
SHVR

I'M SCARED.

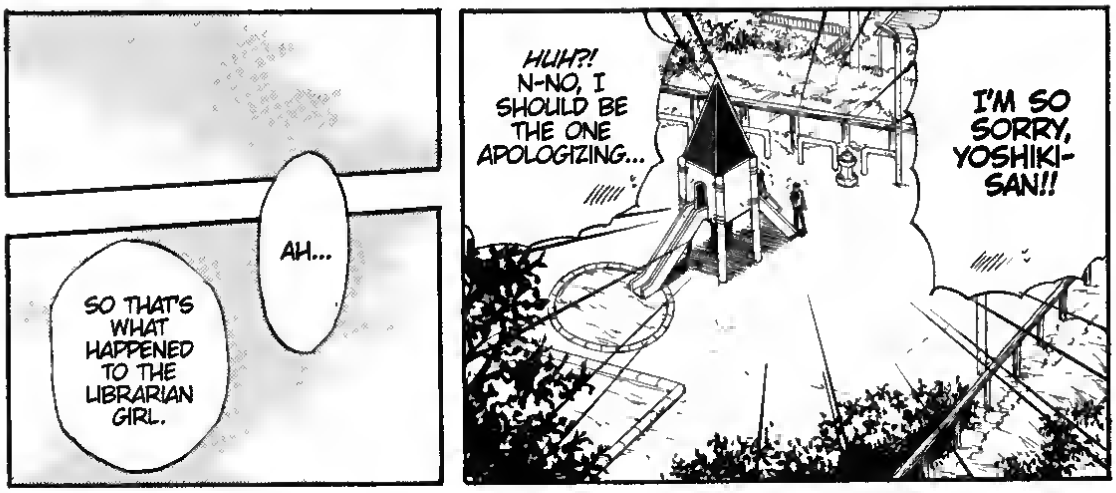

EVEN THAT LITTLE BIT...
WAS APPARENTLY REASON ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE TO TREAT ME LIKE A MONSTER.
IT USED TO BE SUCH A LITTLE THING. IF I STARED REALLY HARD AT SOMETHING, I COULD GIVE IT A SMALL SHOCK. THAT WAS IT.
BUT...
UP UNTIL VERY RECENTLY, I USED TO BE ABLE TO KEEP MY LEFT EYE UNDER CONTROL. BARELY, BUT I COULD.
BUT NOW IT'S GOTTEN SO POWERFUL, I ABSOLUTELY NEED THE EYEPATCH.

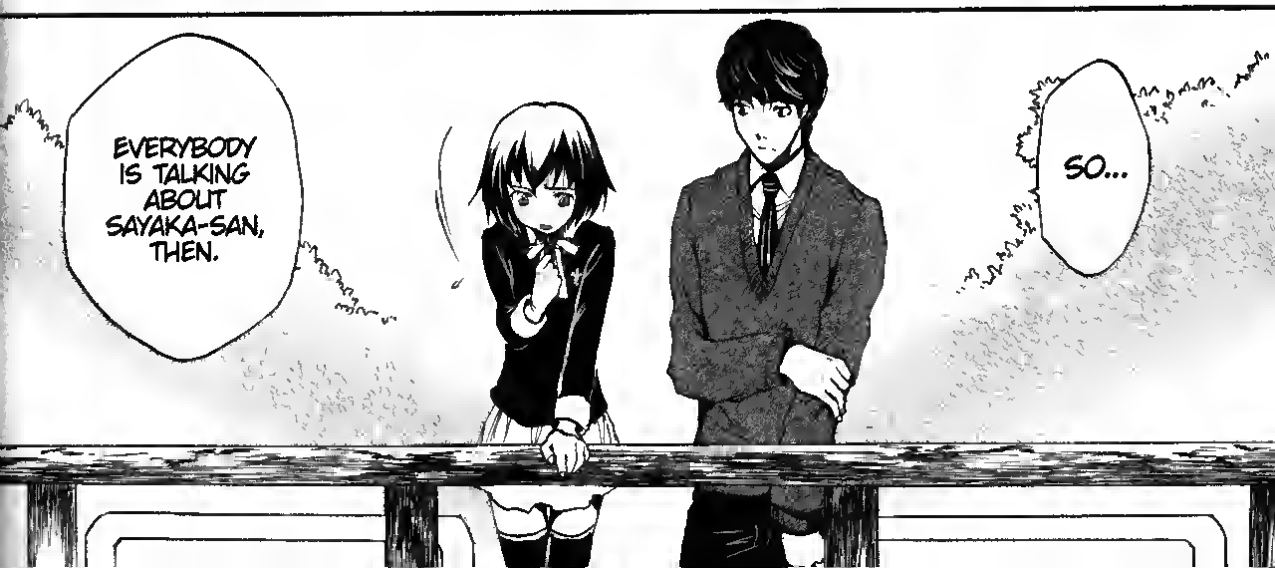
SUMIRE WAS RIGHT THERE FOR THAT BIG EXPLOSION OF LIGHT...
SHE HAS PLENTY OF REASON TO DESPISE ME NOW...
AND THAT'S WHAT SCARES ME...
SILENCE
LUCIA-SAN...
.....
I SHOULD'VE BEEN THINKING, BUT I WASN'T. NAHASHI-SAN TOLD ME THAT THE BRACELET WAS EXPERIMENTAL, BUT I JUST TOSSED THAT WARNING OUT THE WINDOW AND WENT AND OVERUSED IT.
IT'S ALL MY FAULT...
IT'S BECAUSE I LOST CONTROL AGAIN AND ALMOST HURT HER TOO, NO DOUBT.
SHE'S BARELY TALKED TO ME SINCE THAT NIGHT.

IT'S SO... STIFLING IN HERE NOW.
SHFF
I GUESS... I SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED THAT SHE HATES ME NOW.
RSTL
RSTL
RSTL
SHFL
.....
IT'S AT TIMES LIKE THIS...
WHEN I REALLY WANT TO SEE HIS SMILE.
BAM

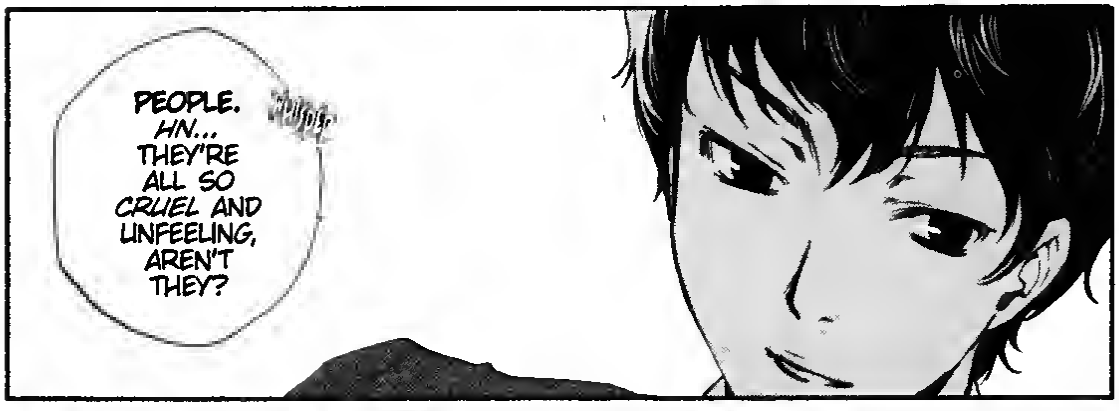
NOBODY HOME
IT IS KINDA STUPID TO THINK I'LL FIND HIM HERE *EVERY* SINGLE TIME I COME LOOKING, ISN'T IT?
YEAH...
SUMIRE-CHA...
URK ...!
!

AHHH!!
AH!!
YOSHIKI-SAN!


HUH?! N-NO, I SHOULD BE THE ONE APOLOGIZING...
I'M SO SORRY, YOSHIKI-SAN!!
AH...
SO THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED TO THE LIBRARIAN GIRL.

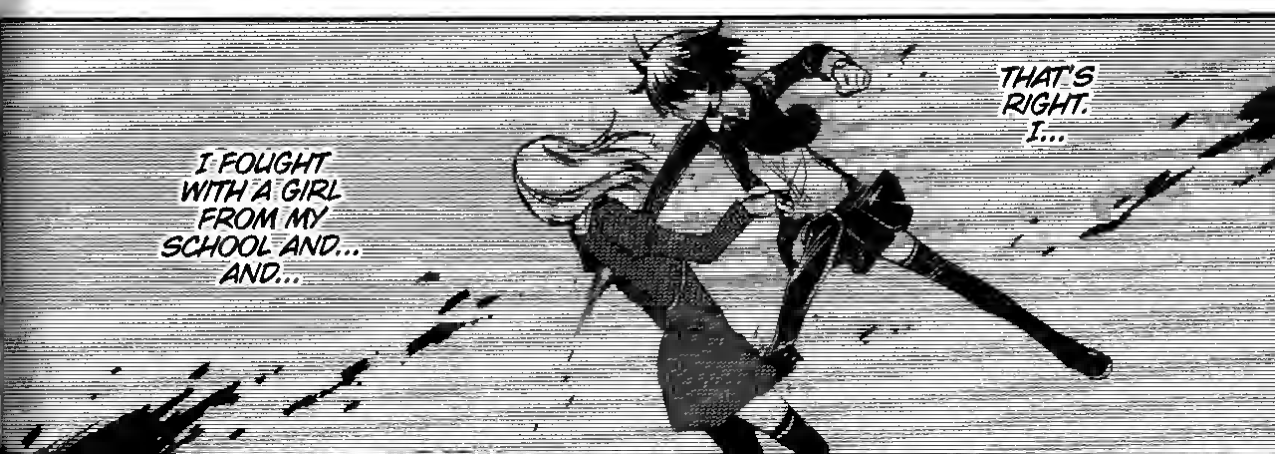

SO...
EVERYBODY IS TALKING ABOUT SAYAKA-SAN, THEN.

YEAH...
THOUGH, IT'S NOT LIKE THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT IT BECAUSE THEY'RE WORRIED ABOUT HER.
IT'S MORE LIKE THEY'RE JUST HAPPY FOR MORE GRIST FOR THE RUMOR MILL.


PEOPLE. HN... THEY'RE ALL SO CRUEL AND UNFEELING, AREN'T THEY?

?
HUH ...?
SO...
WHAT ABOUT YOURS?
MY WHAT?

YOUR SCHOOL.
AREN'T THERE RUMORS?
TWITCH
ABOUT THAT GIRL.
THE ONE YOU FOUGHT HERE THAT NIGHT.
BA-THMP
YEAH...

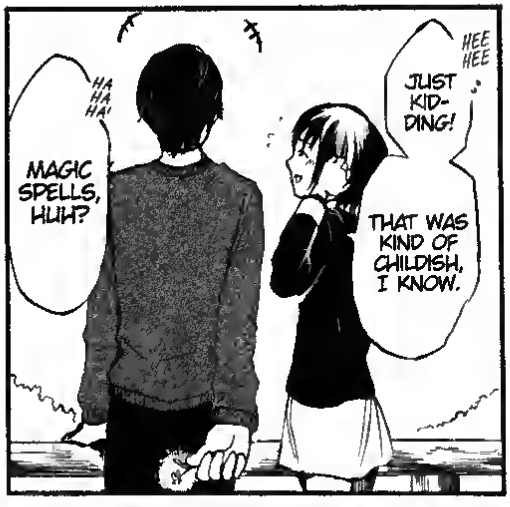

I FOUGHT WITH A GIRL FROM MY SCHOOL AND... AND...
THAT'S RIGHT. I...

OH...
I... I DON'T KNOW...
I HAVEN'T GONE TO SCHOOL SINCE THEN.
BUT... THERE HAS TO BE RUMORS ABOUT HER BY NOW.
RUMORS THAT ARE ALL FALSE, SINCE NOBODY KNOWS THAT SHE TURNED INTO A VIRUS AND THAT I...
AH...
HFF
I KILLED HER.
AAAH...
I JUST SAW A VIRUS ATTACKING YOSHIKI-SAN, THAT'S ALL.
(HFF)
BUT... SHE IS... WAS...
I-I...
SUMIRE-CHAN...
HERE.

HM...?
SWEET SCENT.
SUCH A...
IT SMELLS SO WONDERFUL...
I WONDER WHAT KIND OF FLOWER IT IS.
WAIT. I KNOW THIS SCENT...
WHERE HAVE I...?
OH YEAH. IT'S THE SCENT I NOTICED WHEN I FIRST MET YOSHIKI-SAN.

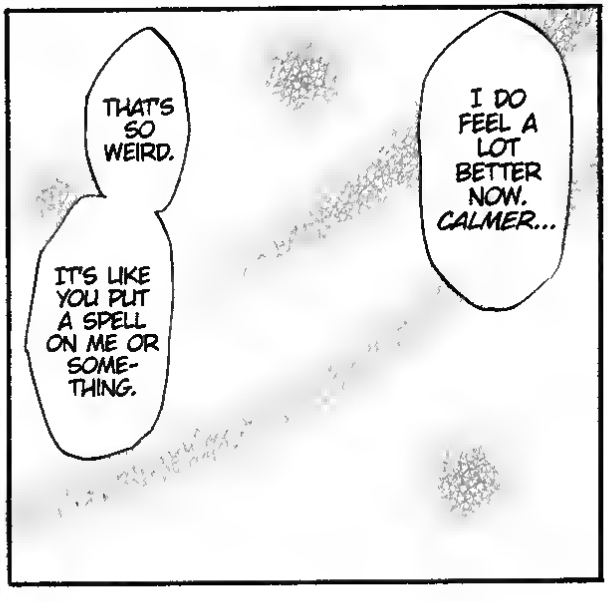
ACK!
HUH ...?
OH!
I-I THINK ...

DO YOU FEEL BETTER NOW?
SMILE


HEE HEE
JUST KID-DING!
THAT WAS KIND OF CHILDISH, I KNOW.
HA HA HA!
MAGIC SPELLS, HUH?

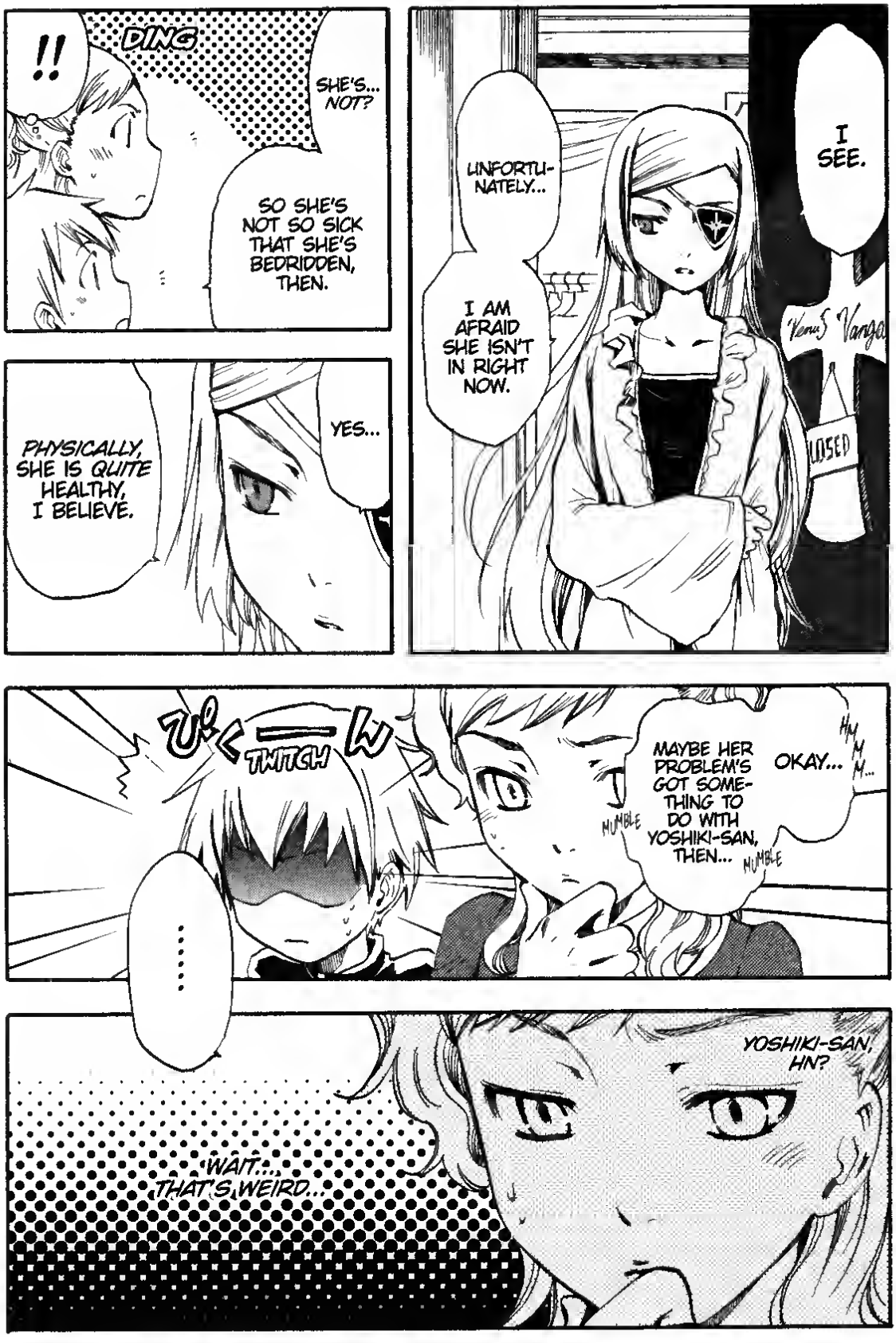
NO, WAIT. YES.

FSSSS


I DO FEEL A LOT BETTER NOW. CALMER...
THAT'S SO WEIRD.
IT'S LIKE YOU PUT A SPELL ON ME OR SOME-THING.

HN. THAT DOES IT FOR MY CIGA-RETTES.
.....
PSH
.....
PFFF
GUESS I'LL HAVE TO GO GET SOME MORE MYSELF.
TMP
TMP
TMP
?
KCHK

OH!
E-EXCUSE US!!
OH. HELLO.
I REMEMBER YOU. YOU WERE KIND ENOUGH TO VISIT THE STORE SOME WEEKS AGO. THANK YOU.
HOWEVER, I AM AFRAID THE SHOP IS CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.
AH! NO, NO!!
?
THAT'S NOT WHY WE CAME!
LUM... Y'SEE...
WE'RE FRIENDS OF SUMIRE-CHAN AND, WELL...
SHE HASN'T BEEN TO SCHOOL IN A FEW DAYS, SO WE WANTED TO STOP BY TO SEE IF SHE WAS OKAY.


!!
DING
SHE'S... NOT?
SO SHE'S NOT SO SICK THAT SHE'S BEDRIDDEN, THEN.
I SEE.
UNFORTU-NATELY...
I AM AFRAID SHE ISN'T IN RIGHT NOW.
Venus Vargas
CLOSED
YES...
PHYSICALLY, SHE IS QUITE HEALTHY, I BELIEVE.
びくーん
TWITCH
OKAY...
HM M M...
MAYBE HER PROBLEM'S GOT SOME-THING TO DO WITH YOSHIKI-SAN, THEN...
MUMBLE
MUMBLE
.....
WAIT... THAT'S WEIRD...
YOSHIKI-SAN, HN?

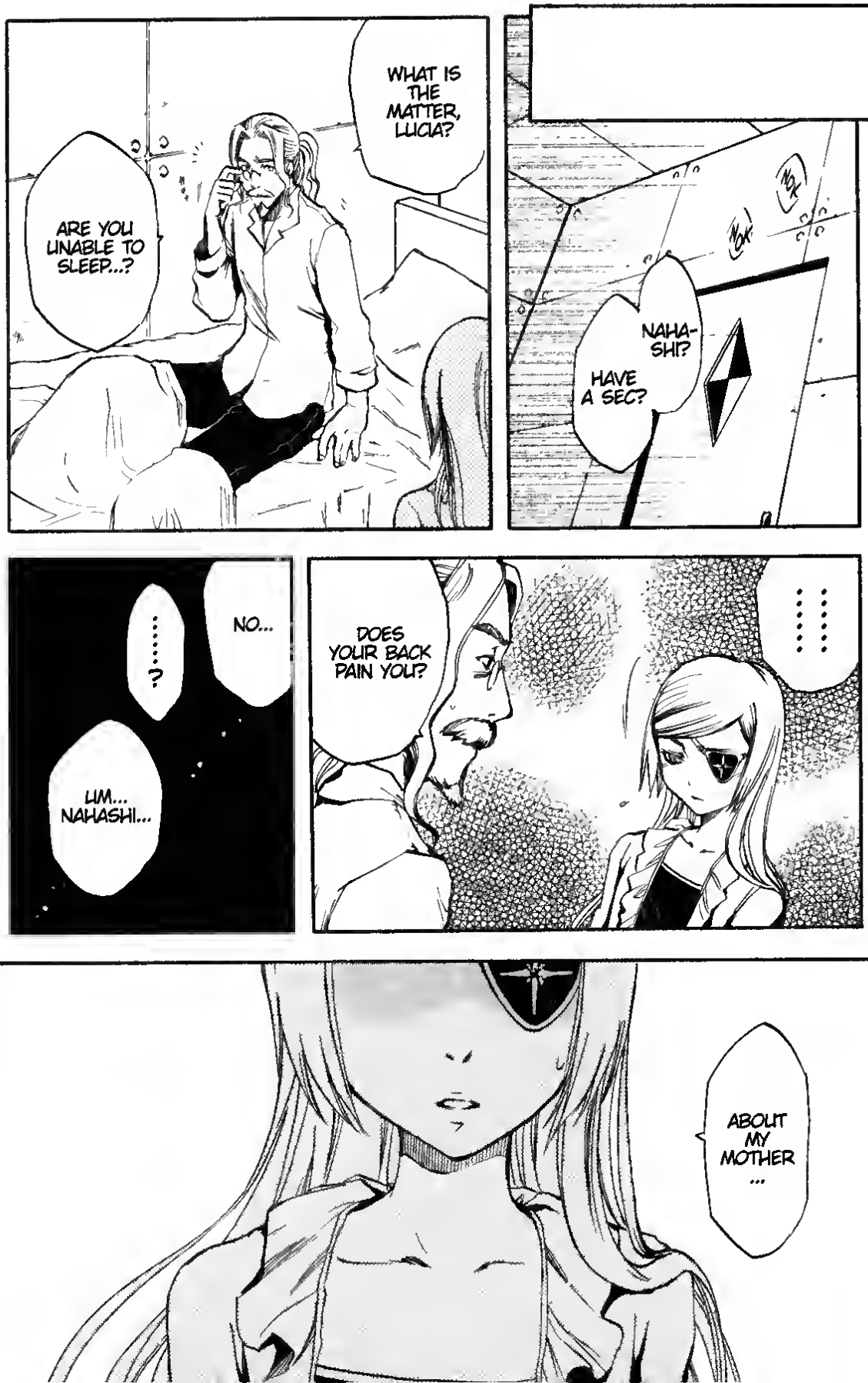
I KNOW I'VE MET THE GUY, AND EVEN TALKED TO HIM...
BUT I CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE FOR THE LIFE OF ME.
I HARDLY REMEMBER WHAT WE EVEN TALKED ABOUT, EITHER...
"YO-SHIKI."
ACK!
R-RIKU...?!
RRRR RRRR RRRGH !!!
PLIP
S-SO SHE DOES LIKE THAT "YOSHIKI" GUY BETTER!
"YO-SHIKI"?
HUH?!
HEY! WHOA! HOLD IT! NO GIVING UP YET! THE BATTLE'S ONLY JUST GETTING STARTED !!
?
IN FACT, RIGHT NOW IS YOUR BIGGEST CHANCE!!
MY BIGGEST CHANCE?

THAT MUST MEAN SHE'S REALLY WORRIED ABOUT SOMETHING... LIKE HOW SHE AND YOSHIKI-SAN AREN'T GETTING ALONG AS WELL AS SHE WANTS TO! THAT *HAS* TO BE IT!!
REALLY?! YOU SURE?
YES! THINK ABOUT IT. SUMIRE-CHAN'S SKIPPING SCHOOL EVEN THOUGH SHE'S NOT SICK.
STARE
NOW'S THE CHANCE FOR YOUR HUGE UPSET VICTORY!
IT'S TIME FOR "*KING GIMME-LOVE*" TO TAKE THE STAGE!!
HO HO HO
KING? WHA?
POSITIVE, RIKU!!
HO HO HO HO HO HO
DAA DAA!
STARE
OH, YOU HAVE *MUCH* TO LEARN, RIKU.
BUT, ISN'T THAT A LITTLE, UM... *UNFAIR*...?
SHE'S AT HER MOST VULNERABLE WHEN SHE'S BROKEN-HEARTED!!
HAH HAH
GO!
FIND THE POOR, WEAKENED, HEART-SICK SUMIRE-CHAN AND CONSOLE HER LIKE THERE'S NO TOMORROW! WEASEL YOUR WAY INTO HER *GOOD* GRACES, THEN *POUNCE!!*

WHEN YOU TRULY WANT SOMETHING, YOU USE AS MANY LOW-DOWN, DIRTY TRICKS AS YOU CAN THINK OF!!
DOOOOM
THESE ARE THE DEPTHS YOU MUST BE WILLING TO SINK FOR LOVE!!
ARE YOUR FEELINGS REALLY THAT SHALLOW?!
URK!
GONG
I... I'LL DO IT!!
I'LL DO IT, NEE-CHAN!!
GRR
EXCEL-LENT! THAT'S THE SPIRIT!
ZING
.....
LET'S GO STEAL SOME LOVE!!
YEEEAH!!
TMP
HN...
.....
YEAH!
YEAH!

THAT'S RIGHT.
.....
BAM
I THOUGHT...
I ASSUMED, WITH NO PROOF WHATSO-EVER...
THAT SUMIRE WOULD JUST UNDERSTAND HOW I FELT.
BUT...
I WAS WRONG.
SO I STARTED THINKING THAT SHE WAS A LOT LIKE ME.
SHE HAS POWERS THAT SET HER APART FROM OTHER HUMANS...

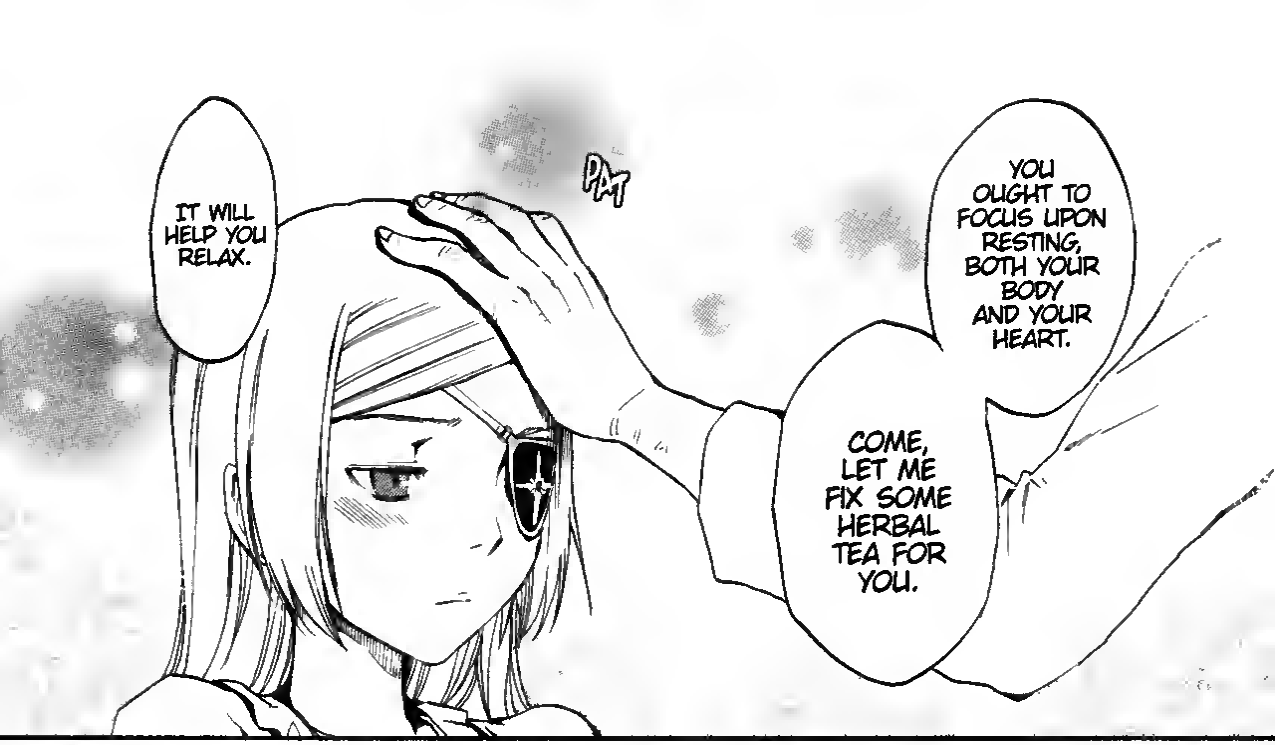
SHE HAS FRIENDS. OTHER PEOPLE WHO CARE FOR HER, WORRY ABOUT HER.
SHE HAS A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT WORLD SHE CAN GO HOME TO.
BUT ME...
ALL I HAVE...
IS A WORLD THAT ONLY I CAN SEE.
ONE FILLED WITH DARKNESS AND SOLITUDE.


WHAT IS THE MATTER, LUCIA?
ARE YOU UNABLE TO SLEEP...?
NAHA-SHI?
HAVE A SEC?
NO...
.....?
UM... NAHASHI...
DOES YOUR BACK PAIN YOU?
.....
ABOUT MY MOTHER ...

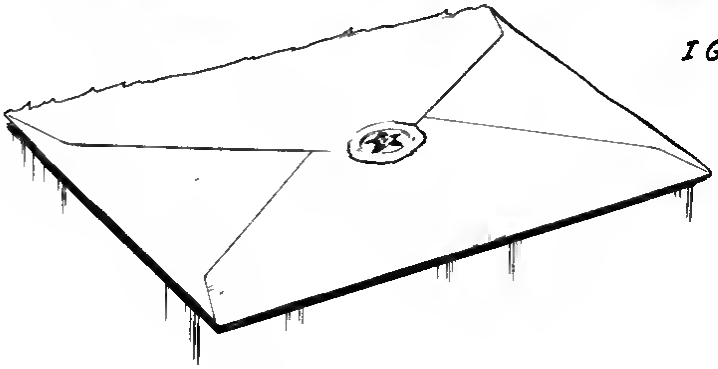
I. WANT TO KNOW WHAT KIND OF PERSON SHE WAS.
COULD YOU TELL ME WHAT SHE WAS LIKE?
"NA-CHACH" ...
YOUR MOTHER...
LILITH.
.....

SHE WAS A VERY KIND...
VERY BEAUTIFUL WOMAN.
NO!!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I WANT TO HEAR! YOU'VE TOLD ME THAT A MILLION TIMES!
WSH
I WANT TO KNOW OTHER THINGS ABOUT HER.
YOU KNEW HER REALLY WELL, RIGHT?!
YOU WERE BEST FRIENDS WITH HER!
THERE HAS TO BE SOMETHING ELSE YOU CAN--
LUCIA.

I CANNOT TELL YOU MUCH RIGHT NOW.
BUT I PROMISE ...
SOMEDAY SOON...
LIAR!
YOU ALWAYS SAY THAT TOO! AND THEN YOU CHANGE THE SUBJECT!
SMACK
.....
GOODNESS...
LUCIA, PLEASE BELIEVE ME.
WHILE SHE MAY SEEM CALM AND COLLECTED AT ALL TIMES, THAT IS BUT A MASK.
.....
REMOVE IT, AND BENEATH YOU WILL FIND A GIRL WHO IS MUCH LIKE SUMIRE-KUN.
YOUNG, IMPRESSIONABLE...
RIGHT NOW...
AND ALL TOO EASILY HURT.


IT WILL HELP YOU RELAX.
PAT
YOU OUGHT TO FOCUS UPON RESTING, BOTH YOUR BODY AND YOUR HEART.
COME, LET ME FIX SOME HERBAL TEA FOR YOU.

I GUESS...



THE TIME HAS ALMOST COME.

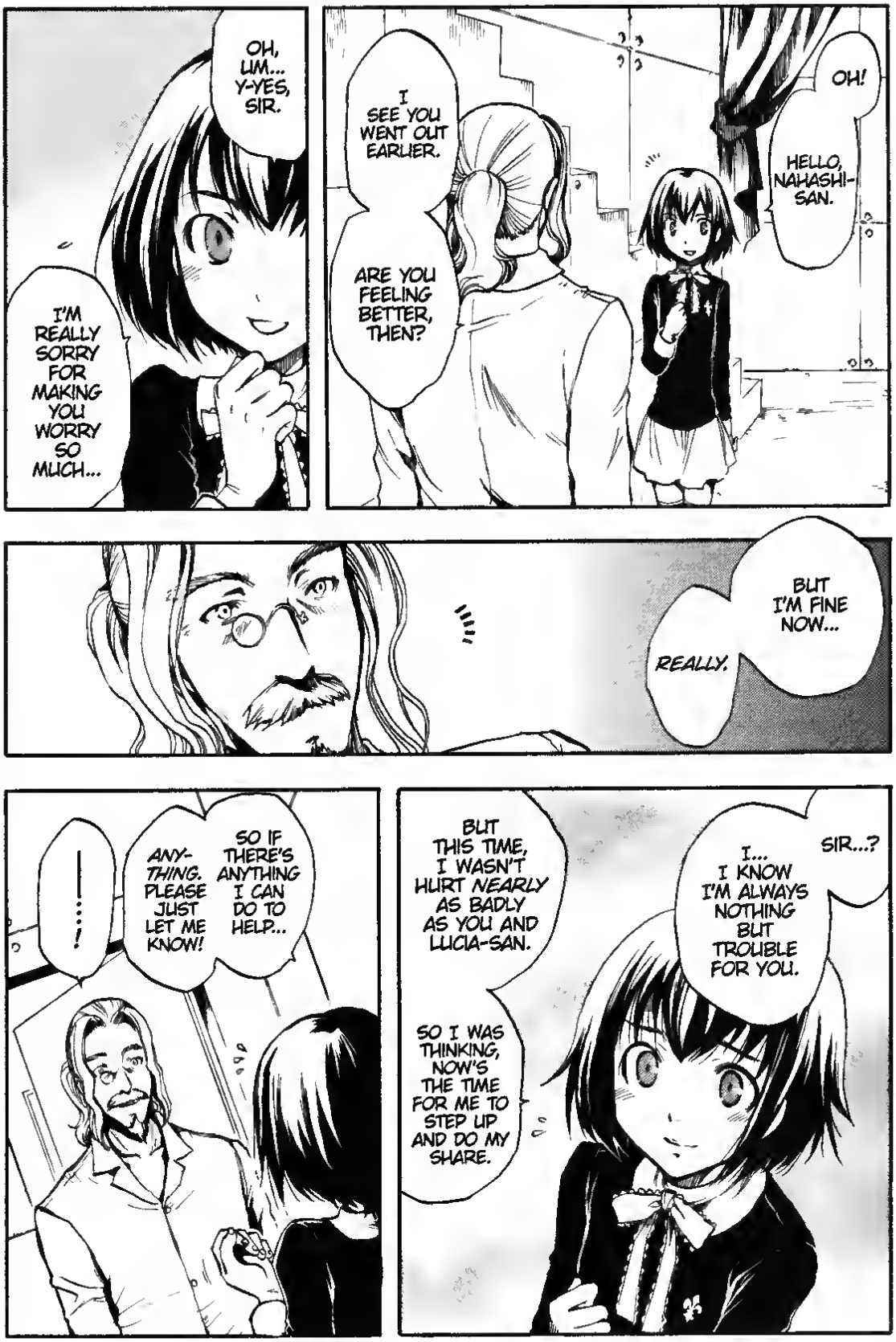
THE TRUTH BEHIND OUR NEW ENEMIES, AS WELL AS THAT SURROUNDING LILITH'S DEATH, MUST BE DISCOVERED.
TNK
MANY THINGS MUST BE DONE.

I MUST, SOONER OR LATER, RETURN TO THAT COUNTRY.
TO DO THIS...

KCHK

TMD TMD TMD
?

BUT...
WITH BOTH LUCIA AND SUMIRE-KUN IN THE STATE THEY ARE IN...
I CANNOT SIMPLY LEAVE THEM BEHIND TO GO GALLIVANTING OFF TO ANOTHER COUNTRY.


OH, UM... Y-YES, SIR.
I'M REALLY SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WORRY SO MUCH...
OH!
HELLO, NAHASHI-SAN.
I SEE YOU WENT OUT EARLIER.
ARE YOU FEELING BETTER, THEN?
BUT I'M FINE NOW...
REALLY.
SIR...?
I... I KNOW I'M ALWAYS NOTHING BUT TROUBLE FOR YOU.
BUT THIS TIME, I WASN'T HURT NEARLY AS BADLY AS YOU AND LUCIA-SAN.
SO I WAS THINKING, NOW'S THE TIME FOR ME TO STEP UP AND DO MY SHARE.
SO IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP...
ANY-THING. PLEASE JUST LET ME KNOW!
!...!

BUT YOU ARE QUITE STRONGER THAN MANY BELIEVE, SUMIRE-KUN.
PERHAPS I SIMPLY DID NOT SEE IT UNTIL NOW...
HUH?
WHILE SHE MAY LOOK UNRELIABLE AT FIRST GLANCE...
SHE HAS A STRENGTH AT HER CORE.
ONE THAT DOES NOT RELY UPON HER UNUSUAL GIFTS.
.....
B-BUT I'M CONSTANTLY MESSING UP AND GETTING IN LUCIA-SAN'S WAY...
I WH-WHAT?
NOT SO MUCH AS YOU THINK.

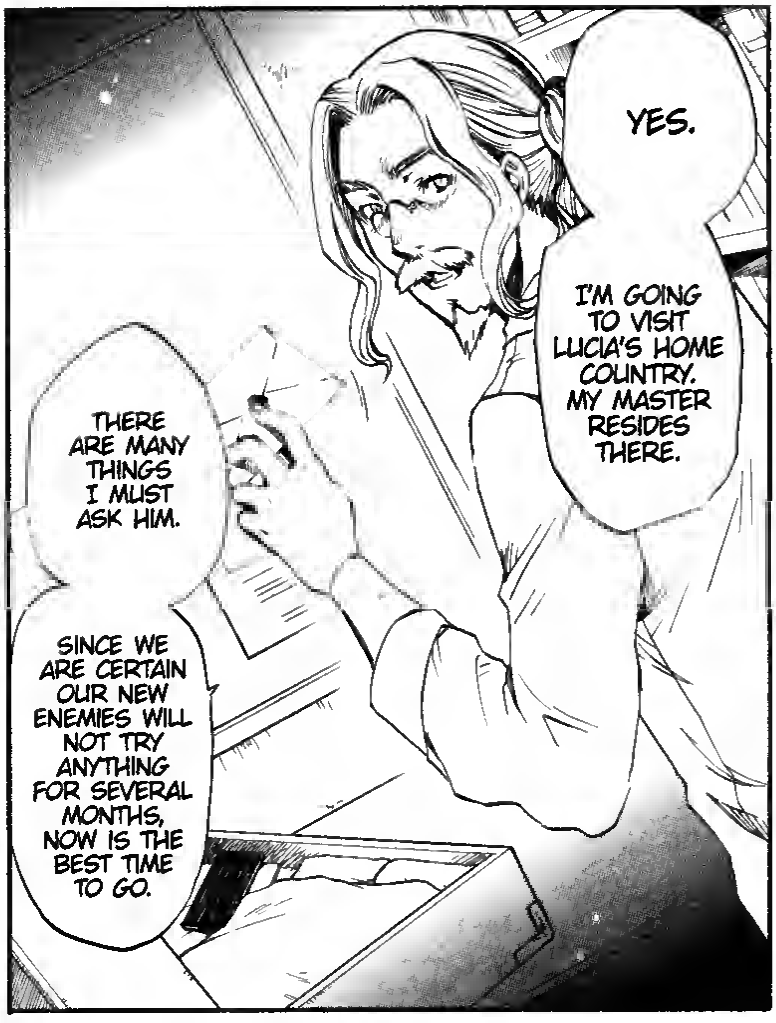
WITH THAT STRENGTH AT HER COMMAND...
SHE SURELY WILL BE UP TO THIS TASK.
SUMIRE-KUN...

SIR?
I THINK...
THAT I SHALL TAKE UP YOUR OFFER OF ASSIS-TANCE.
?

SHE IS THUS, IN EFFECT, THE DIRECT OPPOSITE OF LUCIA...
WHO PRESENTS A STRONG EXTERIOR WHILE HIDING A FRAGILE HEART.

PLEASE TAKE CARE OF LUCIA.
FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE...
PLEASE.
WH-WHAT'S GOING ON?! WHY DO YOU NEED ME TO--?
N-NAHASHI-SAN?!
WHAT?!
わわわ
OH GOSH!
わわ
OH GOSH!
O-OH...
LIM...
MUMBLE
.....?

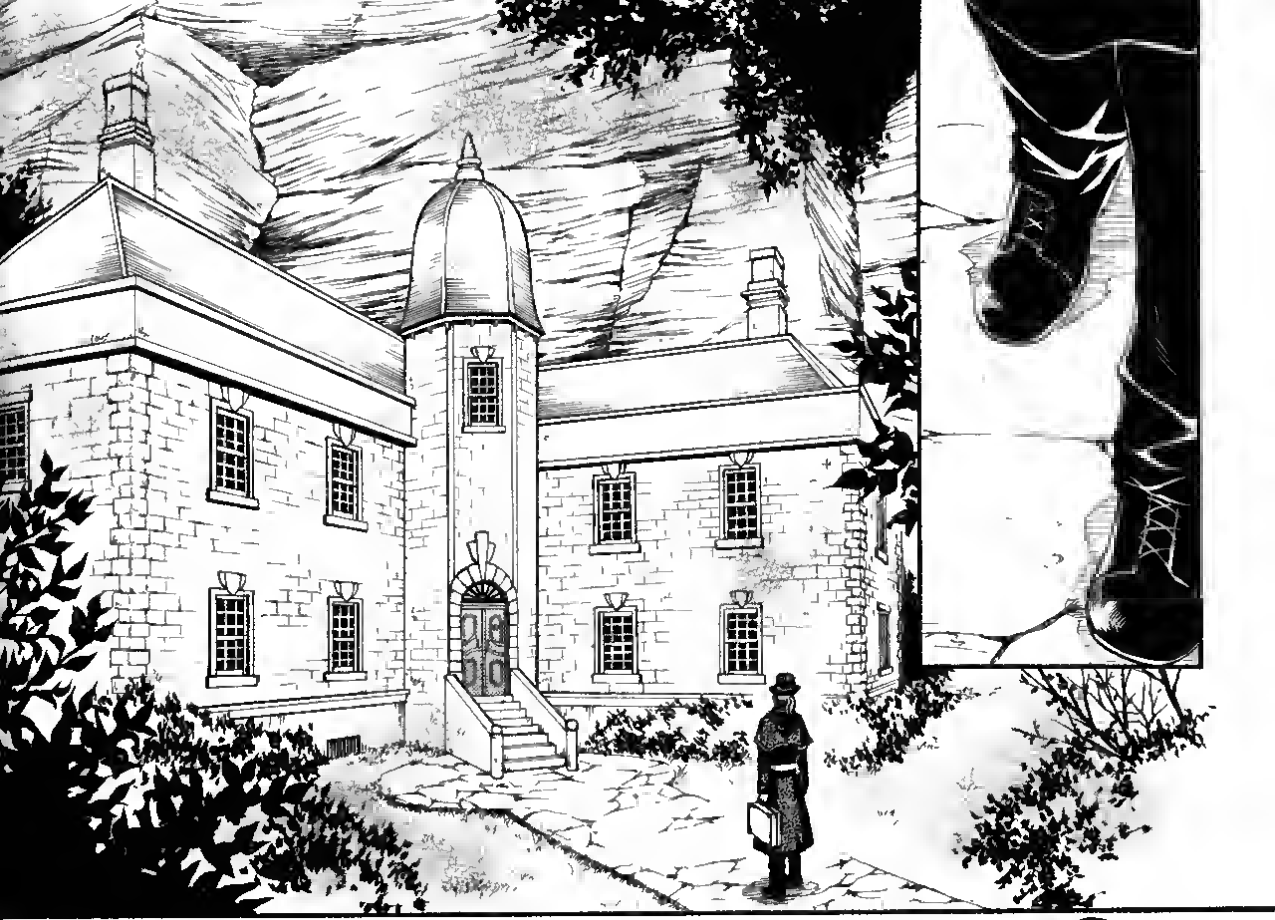
I DON'T REALLY GET WHAT'S GOING ON, OR WHY...
SHF
.....
BUT IF IT'S SOMETHING I CAN DO, I'LL BE GLAD TO HELP!
.....
THANK YOU.
ARE YOU GOING SOME-WHERE ?!
P-PACK?! NAHASHI-SAN!
NOW THEN, I SHOULD PACK.
WHA ?!


YES.
I'M GOING TO VISIT LUCIA'S HOME COUNTRY. MY MASTER RESIDES THERE.
THERE ARE MANY THINGS I MUST ASK HIM.
SINCE WE ARE CERTAIN OUR NEW ENEMIES WILL NOT TRY ANYTHING FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, NOW IS THE BEST TIME TO GO.

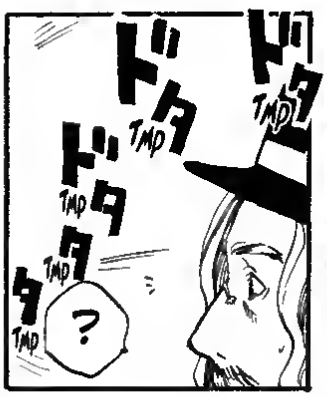
I LEFT THE NEXT MORNING, BEFORE LUCIA AWOKE.

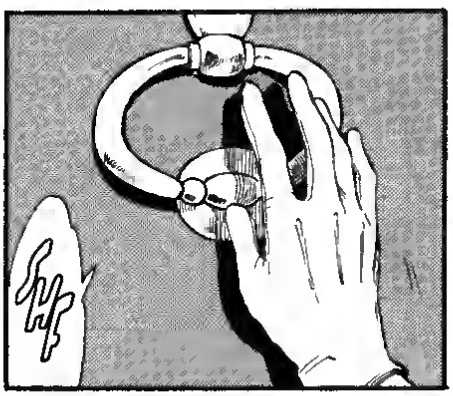
MY PREPARATIONS COMPLETE...

SIGH
SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE.
SUCH A STUBBORN REFUSAL TO...
AHEM
ER... *PERSISTENCE* IN LIVING IN SO DIFFICULT A PLACE TO FIND.



NOTHING HAS CHANGED HERE, EITHER.
IT IS STILL EXACTLY... HEART-WRENCHINGLY... LIKE IT WAS BACK THEN.

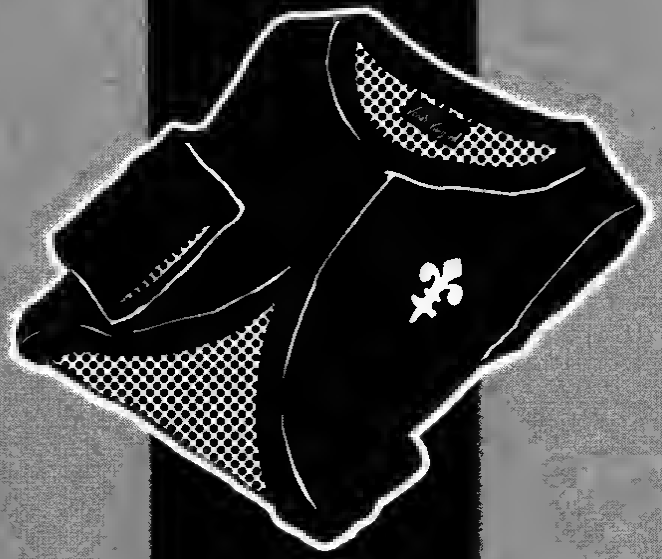

ドタ TMD
ドタ TMD
ドタ TMD
タ TMD
?

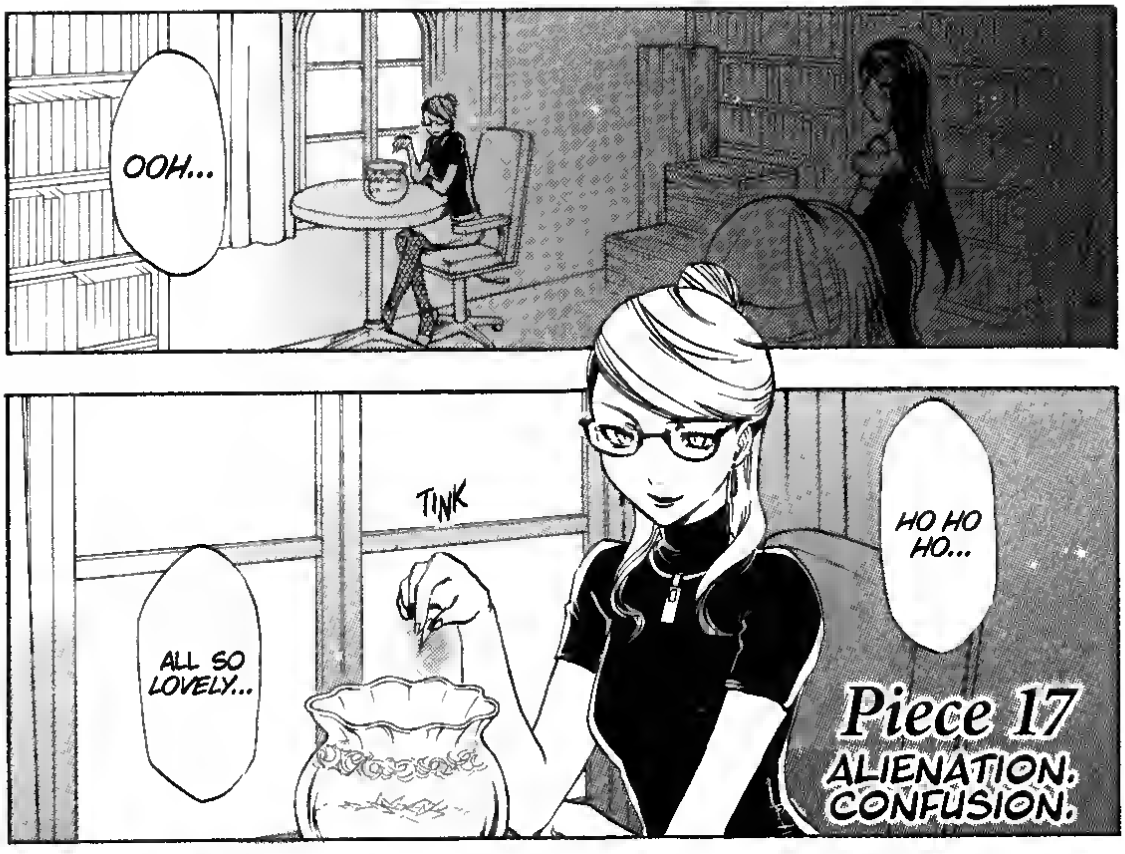

ﾊｯ

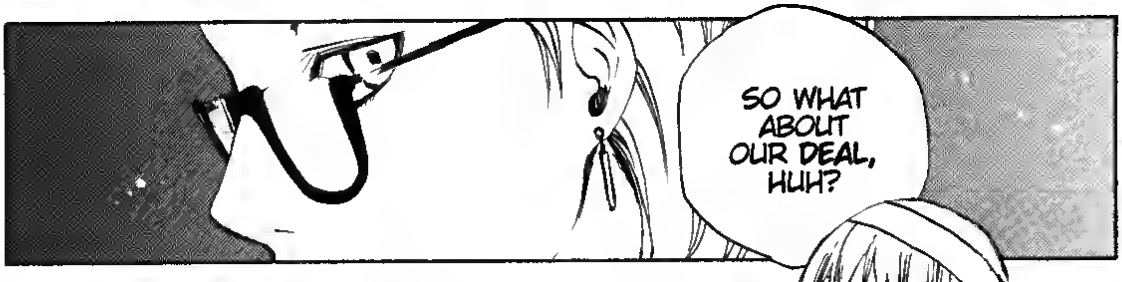
WHO'S THEEERE~?
♪
KCHIK
YES~?
♪
?!
YOU...!

Jewelry
and
Clothes

Venus Vangard




OOH...
TINK
HO HO HO...
ALL SO LOVELY...
Piece 17
ALIENATION. CONFUSION.

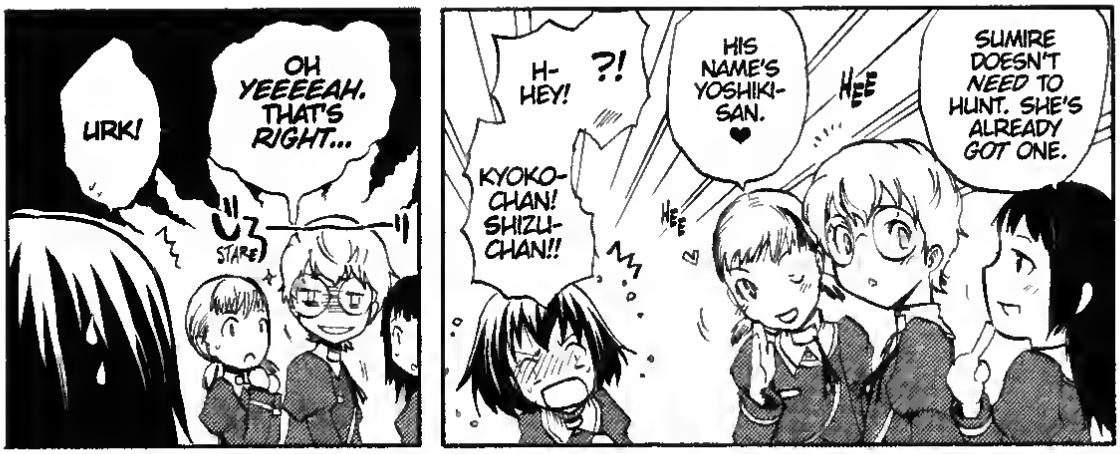

SO WHAT ABOUT OUR DEAL, HUH?

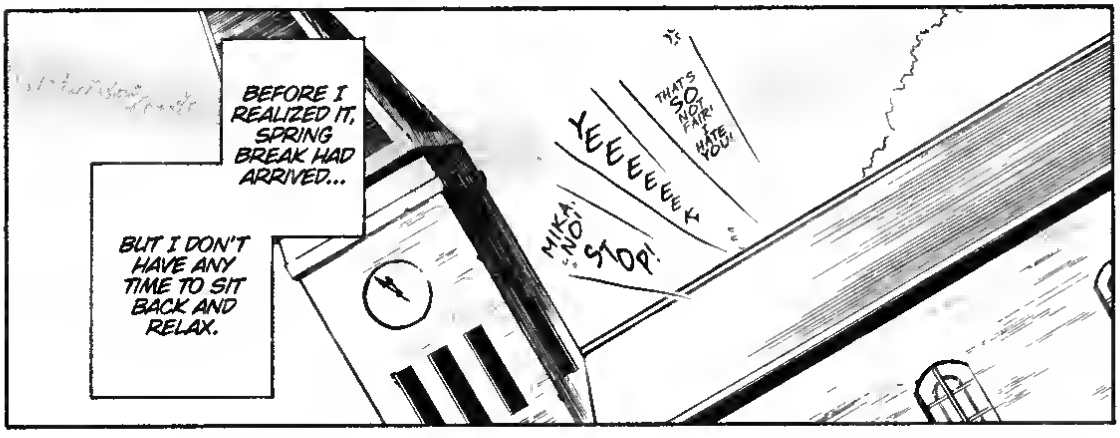
.....
GUY...

I'D LIKE MY SHARE OF THOSE SOMETIME SOON, Y'KNOW. LIKE, NOW, EVEN.

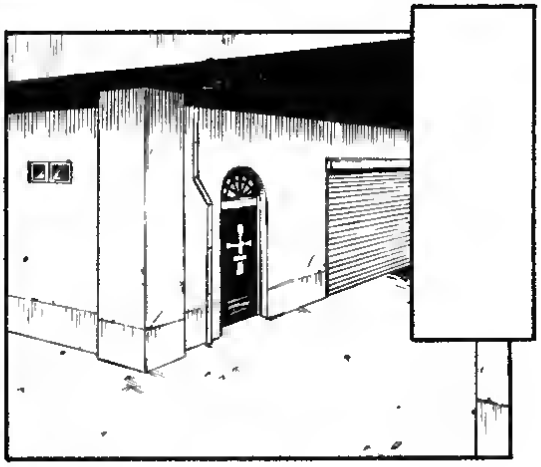
!!
TWITCH
DON'T BE SO HASTY, DARLING.
WE STILL HAVE PLENTY OF TIME BEFORE OUR NEXT HUNT.
THERE'S NO REASON TO HURRY AND DIVVY UP ANYTHING. JUST SIT BACK AND THINK OF ALL THE BEAUTIFUL FRAGMENTS YOU'LL GET AT THE END.
RRG ...
THAT...
IS THE WILL OF OUR GLORIOUS LORD AION.

NOW IS THE TIME...
STARE
FOR ME TO STEP UP AND--
WAH ?!
FLIK
YO! SUMIRE!!
SPRING BREAK STARTS TOMORROW !
SIGH
EXACTLY !!
IF YOU GO OUT THERE WITH ALL THOSE FROWN LINES, THERE'S NO WAY YOU'LL FIND SWEET LOVE!
HUH? SPRING ...?
BUT MIKA, DON'T YOU REMEMBER ?
OH BOY
MIKA-CHAN!
C'MON, GIRL! PERK UP! PUT A LITTLE MORE SPRING IN YOUR STEP, ALREADY!


URK!
OH YEEEEAH. THAT'S RIGHT...
STARE
H-HEY!
?!
KYOKO-CHAN! SHIZU-CHAN!!
HIS NAME'S YOSHIKI-SAN.
HEE
HEE
SUMIRE DOESN'T NEED TO HUNT. SHE'S ALREADY GOT ONE.


BEFORE I REALIZED IT, SPRING BREAK HAD ARRIVED...
BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY TIME TO SIT BACK AND RELAX.
MIKA-NO!
STOP!
YEEEEEEEK
THAT'S SO NOT FAIR! I HATE YOU!

KNOCK KNOCK
LUCIA-SAN?
I MADE DINNER...



.....
I-I GUESS I'LL JUST PUT IT ON THE TABLE OUT HERE, OKAY?
UM...
IT'S BEEN A WEEK SINCE NAHASHI-SAN LEFT ON HIS TRIP...
AND LUCIA-SAN STILL WON'T TALK TO ME.
SHE EVEN DECIDED TO MOVE OUT OF THE ROOM WE SHARED, AND HAS SHUT HERSELF INTO NAHASHI-SAN'S ROOM AND WON'T COME OUT.
THAT NIGHT...

SOME-THING WENT WRONG WITH LUCIA-SAN'S EYE.
BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT WAS. I FAINTED RIGHT BEFORE IT HAPPENED.
AFTER I LOST CONTROL OF MY POWER AND WENT BERSERK...

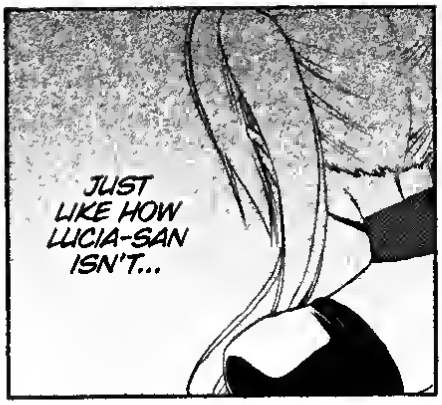
IT WAS ALSO WHEN LUCIA-SAN STARTED ACTING SO STRANGE.
BTAM
WHAT I DO KNOW IS THAT IT WAS ENOUGH TO MAKE OUR ENEMY GIVE UP FOR THE NIGHT.

CHAN ...?

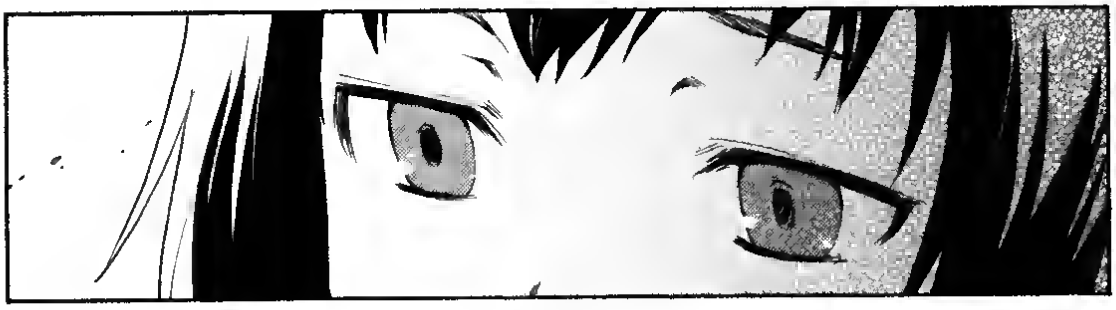
ABOUT LUCIA-SAN'S LEFT EYE AND ALL...
I GUESS ...
I SHOULD'VE ASKED NAHASHI-SAN BEFORE HE LEFT.

YEEP!
SUMIRE-CHAN, HELLO? A PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS.
OH... THIS?
IT'S FINE. IT WAS ONLY A SCRATCH IN THE FIRST PLACE, REALLY.
AH... REALLY?
I-I WAS JUST WONDERING IF YOUR SHOULDER WAS OKAY!
BTHMP BTHMP BTHMP BTHMP
OH!! AH! UM...!
HM?
HE REALLY IS SUCH AN UNUSUAL PERSON.
I-IT WAS NO-THING.
OH...
THANKS.
SMILE
THOUGH IF YOU HADN'T SHOWN UP WHEN YOU DID, IT PROBABLY WOULD'VE BEEN MUCH WORSE.

EVEN THOUGH HE SAW ME DO THAT TERRIBLE, HORRIBLE THING...
HE'S STILL JUST AS KIND AND CONSIDERATE TO ME AS HE'S ALWAYS BEEN.
A NORMAL PERSON PROBABLY WOULD'VE HATED ME AFTER THAT.


JUST LIKE HOW LUCIA-SAN ISN'T...

IF I DIDN'T HAVE HIM HERE FOR ME...
?
I DOUBT I'D BE OVER THE SHOCK FROM THAT NIGHT YET.



YOSHIKI-SAN WOULDN'T SAY NO...
I, UM...
I HAVE SOME-THING I NEED TO ASK YOU ABOUT.

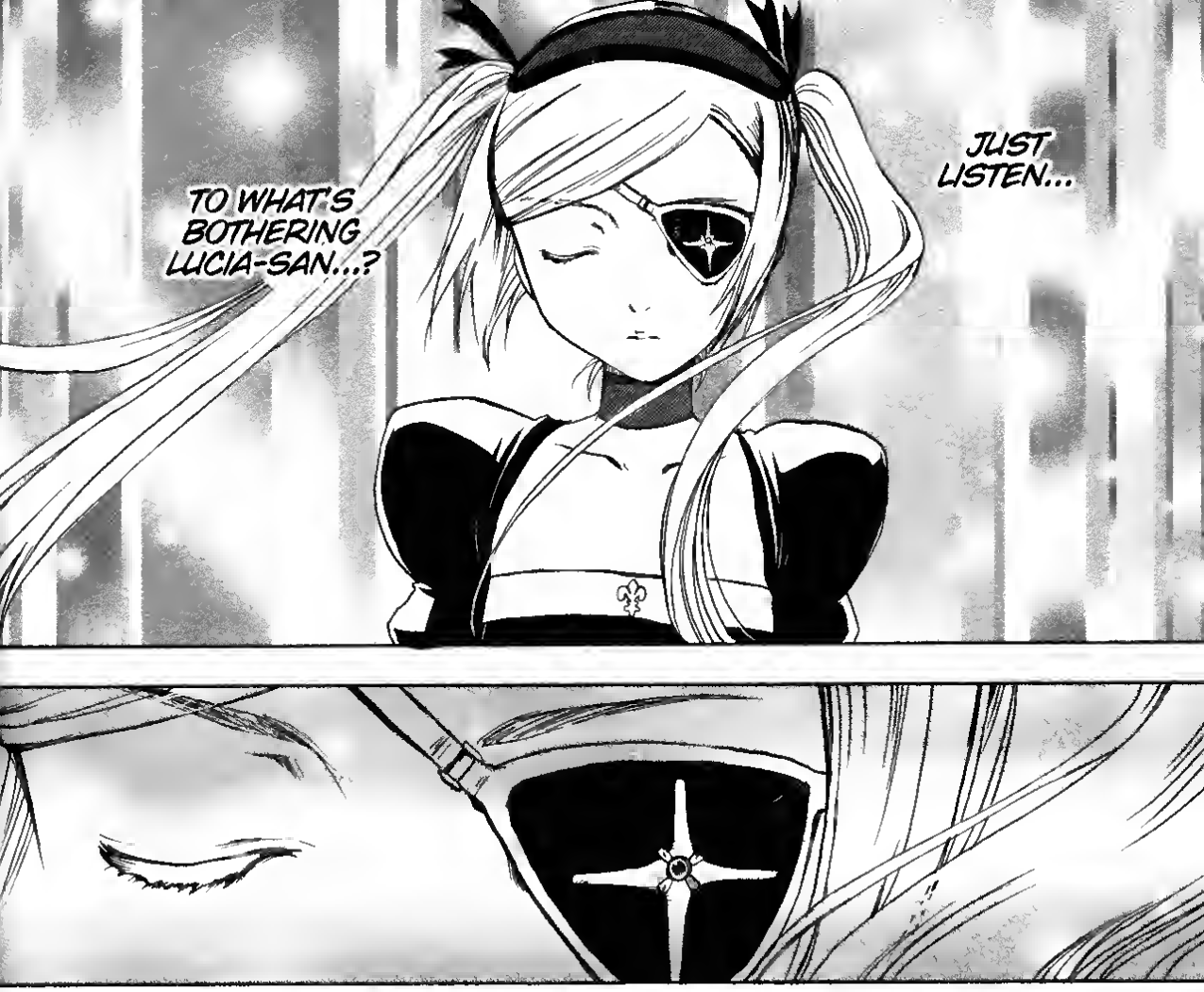
?
SUMIRE-CHAN, ARE YOU SURE THERE'S NOTHING WRONG?
!
OH, I KNOW!

HMM...
A WAY TO CHEER UP THIS "LUCIA-SAN" FRIEND OF YOURS?
SUMIRE-CHAN.
SIGH
YES.
REALLY, I SHOULD BE THE ONE DOING THIS...
SINCE I WAS THE ONE NAHASHI-SAN ASKED TO LOOK AFTER HER.
BUT I, WELL...
GLOOM
PULL
LET'S GO.
THEN WE HAVE TO CHEER YOU UP FIRST!
HUH?!
GO WHERE...?
FOR A WALK, SILLY!
IF WE'RE EVER GOING TO CHEER UP YOUR FRIEND...

WAIT.
AH!
YOSHIKI-SAN'S HANDS...
THEY'RE SO BIG AND WARM...
.....?
OH.
UM... OKAY.
PULL
OH! LOOK!
?
NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO BE THINKING IN THAT DIRECTION!!
STOP RIGHT THERE, GIRL!!
SAKURA, HUH?
IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'LL BLOOM ANY DAY NOW.
SAKURA BUDS!

NO. I MEAN ...
ANY BEAUTY THEY HAVE IS SO SHORT-LIVED.
HUH?
YOU DON'T LIKE... SAKURA?
I'VE NEVER REALLY LIKED THEM, ACTUALLY.
THE FLOWERS BLOOM, AND THE NEXT SECOND, THEY'RE GONE.
THE TREES AREN'T WORTH LOOKING AT THE REST OF THE TIME, EITHER.
WALKING TOOK YOUR MIND OFF YOUR PROBLEMS, RIGHT?
SO ARE YOU FEELING BETTER?
AH...!
WHAT I THINK DOESN'T MATTER.
BUT WHO CARES, HUH?
WELL, I, UM...
OH...

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...
LUCIA-SAN HAS BEEN COOPED UP IN HER ROOM UNDER-GROUND THIS WHOLE TIME.
SHE HASN'T BEEN OUTSIDE IN THE FRESH AIR IN DAYS.
MAYBE IF SHE CAME OUT AND ENJOYED THE SPRING SUN, SHE MIGHT FEEL BETTER.
YOU KNOW ...
I DON'T THINK IT'LL TAKE MUCH.
IF SHE JUST DOES SOMETHING THAT'S A LITTLE CHANGE OF PACE...
OR MAYBE IF YOU SIT DOWN AND LISTEN TO WHATEVER MAY BE BOTHERING HER...
THAT MIGHT BE ENOUGH TO MAKE HER FEEL BETTER.

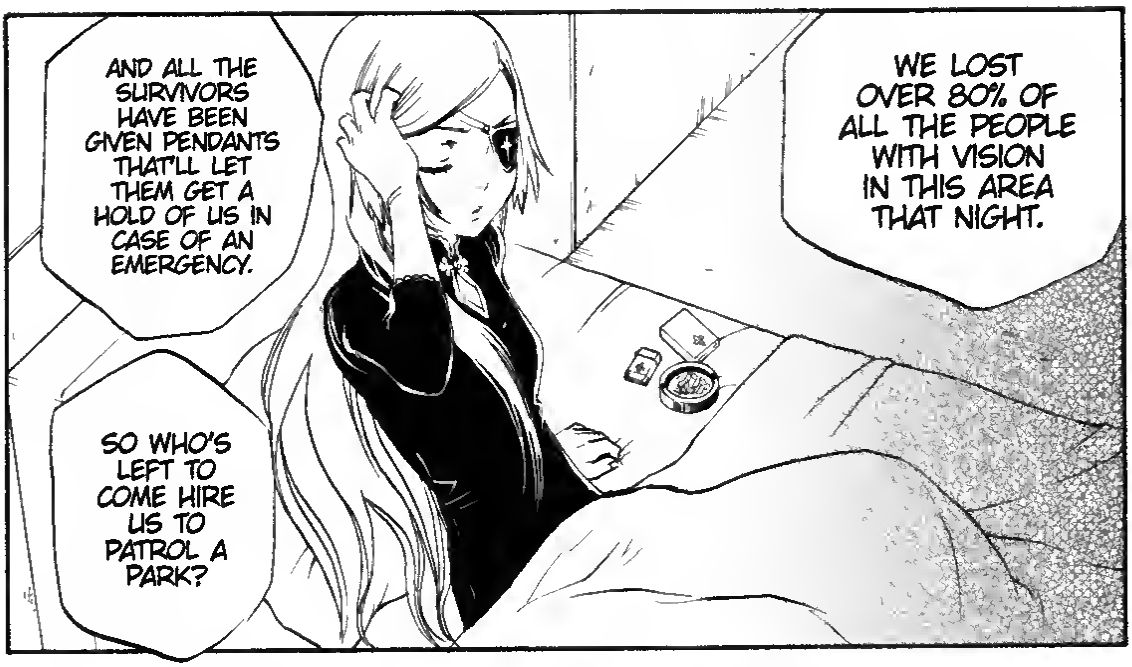

TO WHAT'S BOTHERING LUCIA-SAN...?
JUST LISTEN...

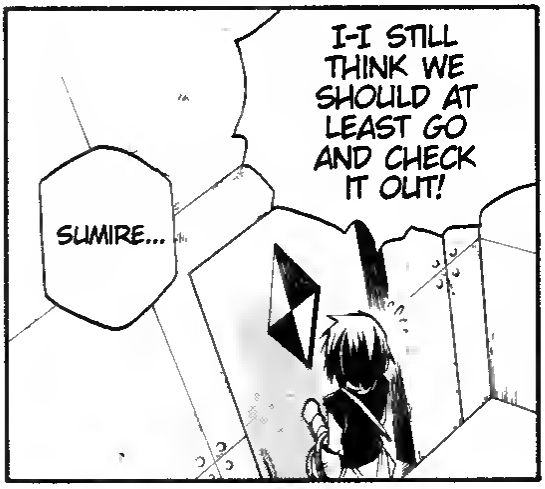
THANKS! THAT SOUNDS LIKE A GREAT IDEA!
NOW I JUST NEED TO THINK OF A WAY TO GET HER OUTSIDE!

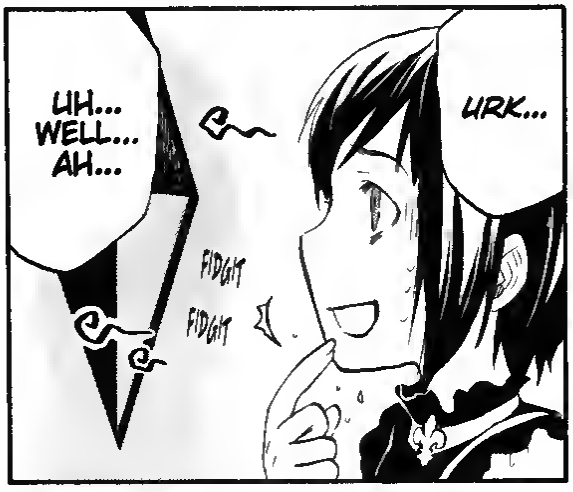
NOT ME...
OR LUCIA-SAN.

THAT'S RIGHT.
WE CAN'T JUST RUN AWAY FROM OUR PROBLEMS.

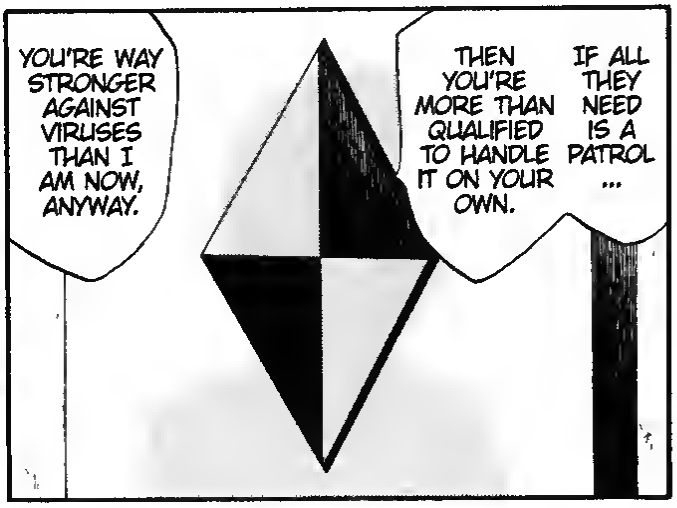
HOW-EVER ...
LUCIA-SAN!!
NOK
NOK
LUCIA-SAN?
THAN JUST WALKING UP TO HER AND SAYING, "LET'S GO ON A PICNIC."
LUCIA-SAN, WE HAVE A PROBLEM!!
PICNIC BASKET
ACTUALLY PRYING HER OUT OF HER ROOM IS PROBABLY GOING TO BE A LOT HARDER...
I JUST HEARD THAT A VIRUS WAS SPOTTED IN THE PARK.
WE'VE BEEN ASKED TO PATROL THE AREA IN CASE IT COMES BACK.
UM, I...
A RES-PONSE! GOOD!!
!
WHAT ...?
HUH?
WHO BY?
THEN, ONCE SHE'S OUTSIDE, I'LL THINK OF SOMETH--
IF I CAN JUST BAIT HER WITH SOMETHING SOUNDING LIKE WORK, SHE MIGHT COME ALONG EVEN IF SHE DOESN'T REALLY WANT TO!
.....
SHF
IT MIGHT COME BACK ANY TIME!
WE SHOULD PROBABLY HURRY.

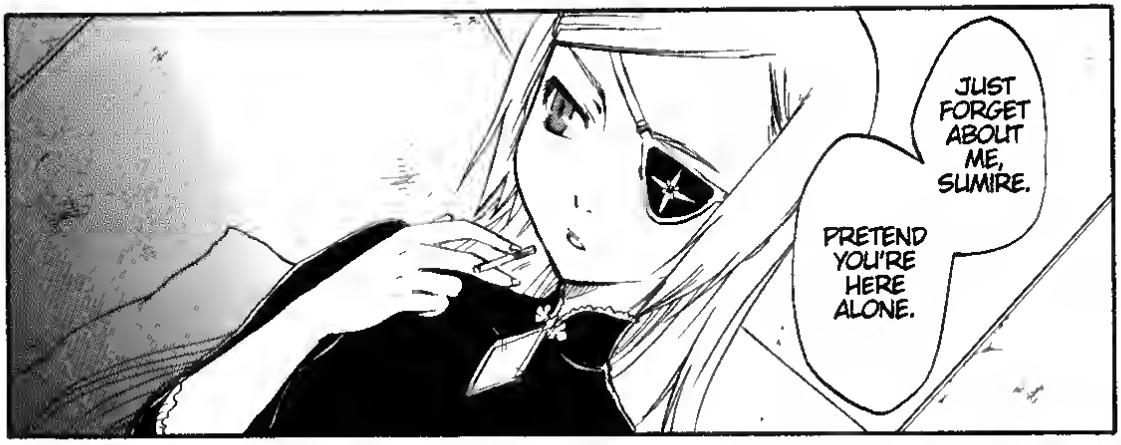

WE LOST OVER 80% OF ALL THE PEOPLE WITH VISION IN THIS AREA THAT NIGHT.
AND ALL THE SURVIVORS HAVE BEEN GIVEN PENDANTS THAT'LL LET THEM GET A HOLD OF US IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY.
SO WHO'S LEFT TO COME HIRE US TO PATROL A PARK?

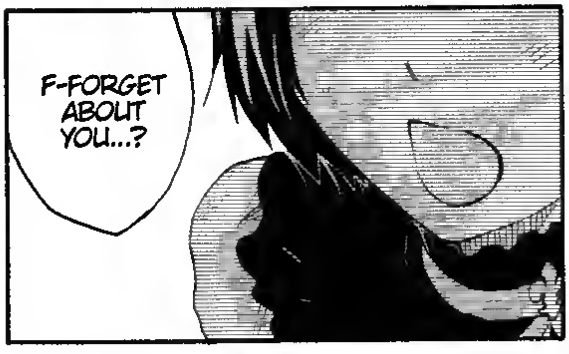

I-I STILL THINK WE SHOULD AT LEAST GO AND CHECK IT OUT!
SUMIRE...


URK...
UH... WELL... AH...
FIDGIT
FIDGIT

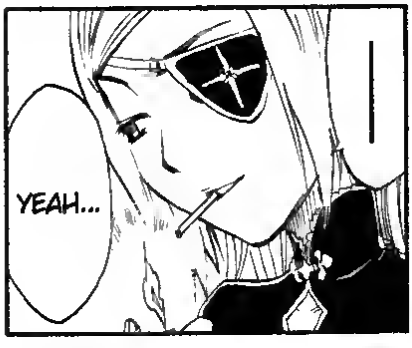
LUCIA-SAN...?
.....


YOU'RE WAY STRONGER AGAINST VIRUSES THAN I AM NOW, ANYWAY.
THEN YOU'RE MORE THAN QUALIFIED TO HANDLE IT ON YOUR OWN.
IF ALL THEY NEED IS A PATROL ...


JUST FORGET ABOUT ME, SUMIRE.
PRETEND YOU'RE HERE ALONE.


F-FORGET ABOUT YOU...?

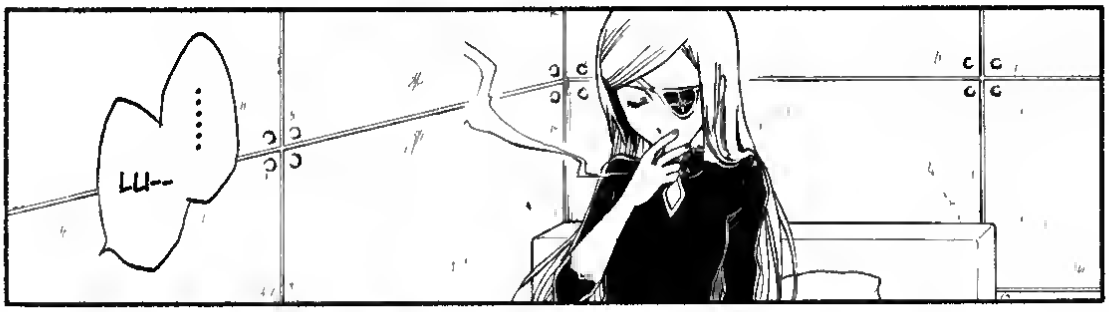
WHA ...?


YEAH...

NAHASHI-SAN ASKED ME TO LOOK AFTER YOU!
BUT I CAN'T DO THAT!!
THERE'S NO WAY I COULD JUST LEAVE YOU ALONE!!

YOU CAN IGNORE WHAT HE SAID. I DON'T CARE.
NO! THAT'S ...
!
GOTTA DO IT BECAUSE NAHASHI ASKED, HUH?
AH!

THERE'S NO POINT IN FORCING OURSELVES TO HANG OUT WITH EACH OTHER OR ANYTHING.
I MEAN, WE'RE BOTH JUST A PAIR OF STRANGERS, AFTER ALL.


LU--

Tp Tp Tp T
KEE-SH

THD

I'M GOING ON PATROL.
TURN

PERFECT WEATHER FOR A PICNIC, TOO.
GLOOM
BUT I'M STUCK ON PATROL BY MYSELF.
DRAT...
WOW.
IT'S BEAUTI-FUL OUT TODAY.
STILL, GOING BACK SO SOON AFTER WHAT HAPPENED FEELS AWKWARD.
I'M JUST WANDERING AROUND OUTSIDE.
WELL... I'M NOT REALLY ON PATROL. THAT WAS JUST AN EXCUSE I MADE UP.
THAT'S RIGHT. I THINK IT'S AROUND HERE SOME-WHERE...
OH...

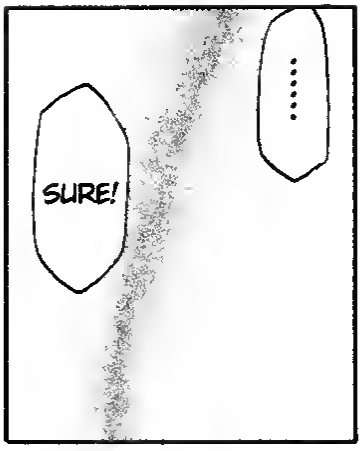
UP THAT WAY, I THINK.
YOUJI ...
YOU HAVE A VISITOR!
YOUJI!
SUMIRE-NEECHAN!
AH!
COMING!
THAT MUST'VE BEEN REALLY HARD FOR YOU.
I SEE...

BUT AFTER WHAT HAPPENED TO TSUKUYO, THEY'VE JUST LOOKED SO TIRED ALL THE TIME.
THEY BARELY BELIEVED ME, THOUGH.
YEAH, THEY WOULD BE.
YEAH. I TOLD MOM AND DAD THAT A BURGLAR WAS TRYING TO GET IN, AND THAT WAS HOW THE WINDOW GOT BROKEN.
THAT'S RIGHT. NAHASHI-SAN SAID IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR HIM IN THE LONG RUN IF WE DIDN'T ERASE ALL HIS MEMORIES OF WHAT HAPPENED.
YOUJI-KUN...
BUT I STILL DREAM ABOUT IT.
I ONLY REMEMBER ABOUT HALF OF WHAT HAPPENED...
H-HURT?
WELL, NO...NOT REALLY...
BUT SHE'S BEEN, AH, TIRED.
NO WAY!
UM
AH
SHE'S NOT HURT OR ANYTHING, IS SHE?
UH...
BTHM
OH!
HOW'S LUCIA-NEECHAN DOING?

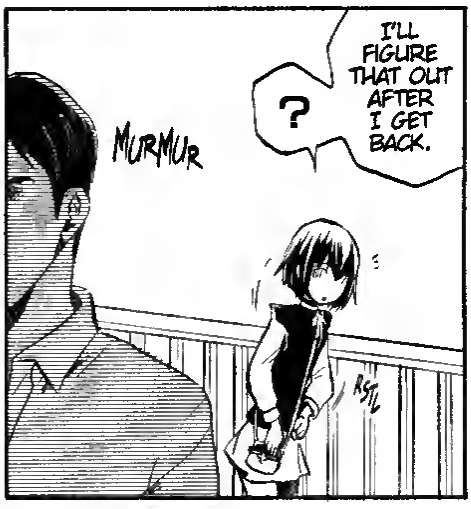
YEAH. LUCIA-NEECHAN GAVE IT TO ME.
SHE SAID IT WAS FOR ME AND TSUKUYO.
OH, HEY! I REMEMBER THAT FROM THE SHOP!
I HOPE SHE'LL BE OKAY...
HM?
SO EVEN LUCIA-NEECHAN ISN'T FEELING GOOD AFTER WHAT HAPPENED.
SHE DID...?
.....!
THERE'S NO POINT IN FORCING OURSELVES TO HANG OUT WITH EACH OTHER OR ANYTHING.
I MEAN, WE'RE BOTH JUST A PAIR OF STRANGERS, AFTER ALL.
AH!
THAT'S IT!
SO, WHEN SHE SAID THAT...
SHE DIDN'T REALLY MEAN IT.

.....?
YOUJI-KUN?
?
HANG ON JUST A SEC!
TMP
WHAT'S THIS?
TO: LUCIA-NEECHAN
BUT COULD YOU TELL HER FOR ME?
TELL HER I SAID I HOPE SHE GETS BETTER REAL SOON!
A LETTER...?
I'M GOING OUT TO MY GRANDMA'S PLACE TOMORROW...
SO I CAN'T GO AND SEE HER MYSELF.

I'LL LET HER KNOW!


.....
SURE!

WELL...
GETTING THE LETTER WAS EASY ENOUGH.


MURMUR
?
I'LL FIGURE THAT OUT AFTER I GET BACK.

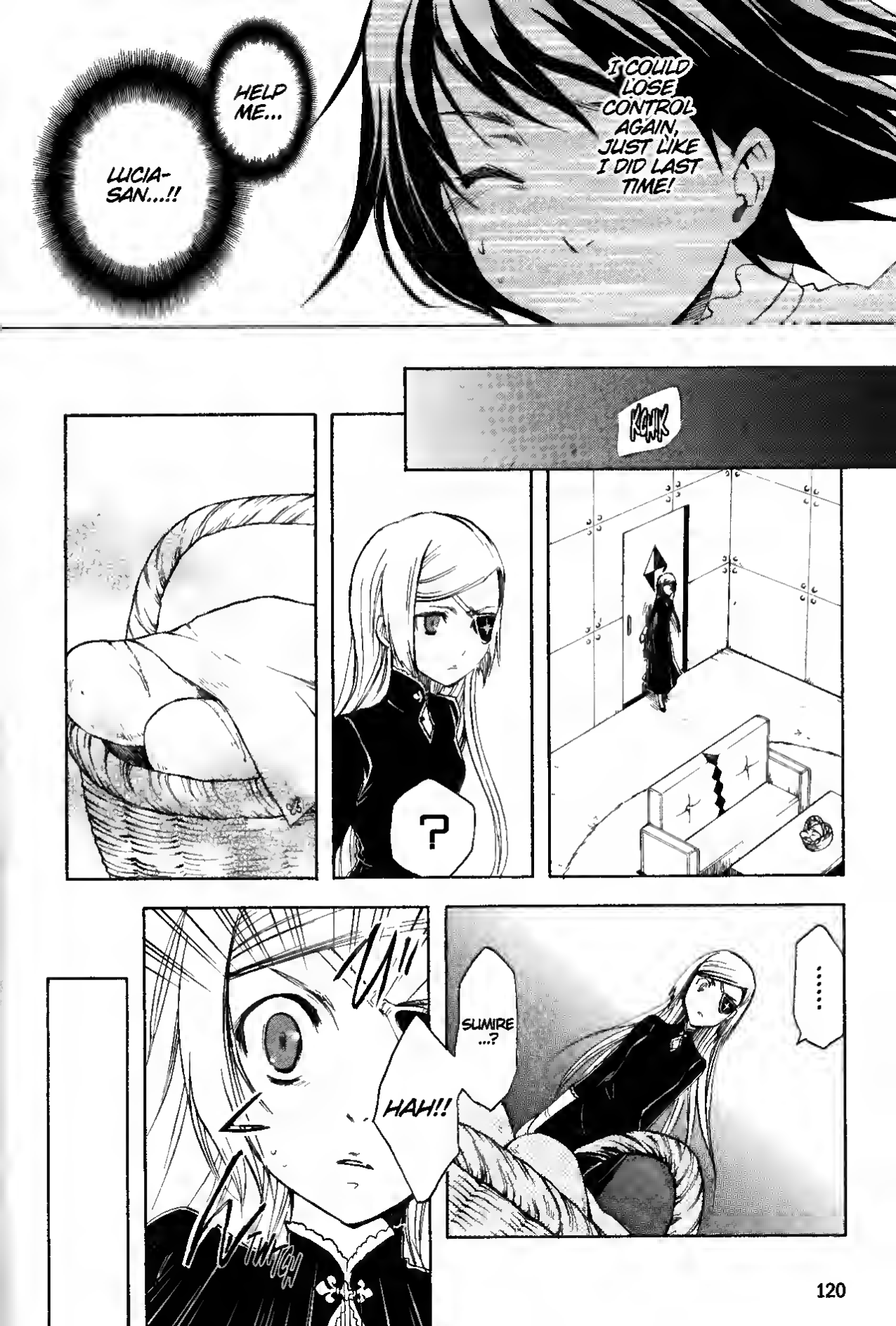
SHE SHOULD... I THINK.
BUT WILL LUCIA-SAN READ IT?

?
BUT WHY?
WHAT COULD MAKE A LITTLE GIRL LIKE HER RESORT TO THIS?
HMM?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
YAMMER
NO! DON'T DO IT !!
IS SHE REALLY GONNA JUMP?
MURMUR
SOMEBODY CALL THE POLICE!
?!
HEEEEY!!
YOU THERE!
COME DOWN FROM THERE! IT'S DANGEROUS!

SHVR
SHVR
SHVR
THAT GIRL...!!

HER SCENT IS JUST LIKE RUKA'S...
NO...! STRONGER!!
SKF
NORMAL PEOPLE ARE SEEING HER...
BUT SHE'S NOT NORMAL HERSELF!
I NEED TO GET AWAY!
TMP
I CAN'T FIGHT HER NOW.
DID SHE FALL ?!
NO! SHE VAN-ISHED!
OH MY GOD!
HEE

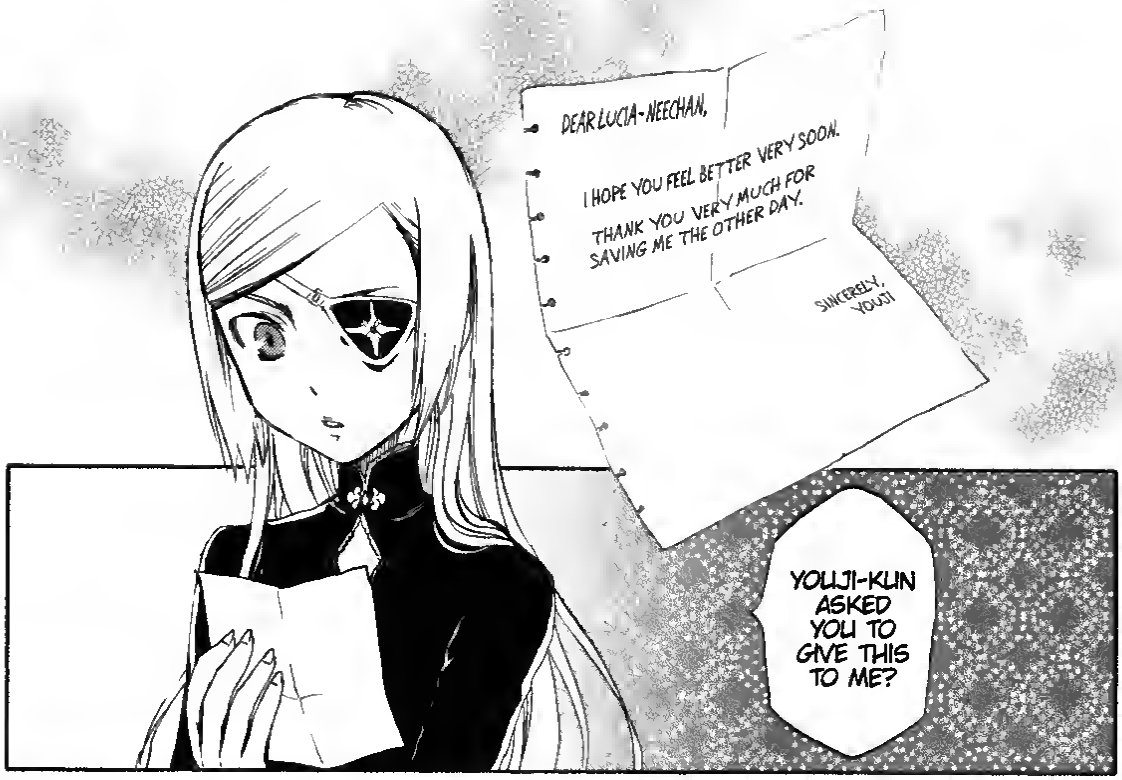
FSH
?!
SKSH
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
YOU.
I KNOW YOU...
WAH!!
I KNOW I COULD GET AWAY IF I USED MY BER-SERKER MODE...
BUT...
HEE HEE HEE.
RGH ...!
WHR
GREAT! NOW WHAT DO I DO?!


I COULD LOSE CONTROL AGAIN, JUST LIKE I DID LAST TIME!
HELP ME...
LUCIA-SAN...!!
KNK
?
.....
SUMIRE ...?
HAH!!

I REMEMBER.
!
HEE HEE HEE HEE.
YOU'RE "SUMIRE."
7 POINT
AND...
UM...

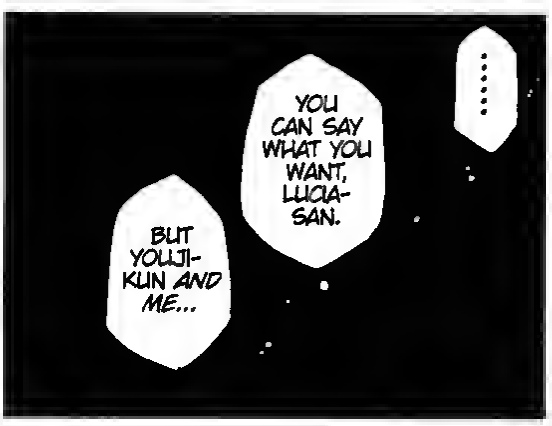
THAT'S "LUCIA."
WHA ?!
SUCH GOOD FRIENDS.
I'M JEALOUS.
SO JEALOUS I WANT TO BREAK YOU UP...!!
BUT...
NO... IT'S ALMOST TEA TIME.
SO LET'S PLAY LATER.

WHAT THE ...?!
HN
SHE SURE LEFT IN A HURRY.
?!
HAVE A PLEASANT DAY.
WAIT! I HAVE SOME-THING FOR YOU!
OH... OH!
RSTL
RSTL
RSTL
RSTL
DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA. I JUST CAME OUT TO BUY CIGARETTES.
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE HERE.
LUCIA-SAN, I--
AH...!
HERE...


DEAR LUCIA-NEECHAN,
I HOPE YOU FEEL BETTER VERY SOON.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR SAVING ME THE OTHER DAY.
SINCERELY, YOUJI
YOUJI-KUN ASKED YOU TO GIVE THIS TO ME?

.....
ABOUT ME, HUH?

HE'S VERY WORRIED, YOU KNOW...
ABOUT YOU.


.....
YOU CAN SAY WHAT YOU WANT, LUCIA-SAN.
BUT YOUJI-KUN AND ME...

WE AREN'T JUST GOING TO GO AWAY AND DESERT YOU.
.....
EVEN THOUGH ...
I'M A MONSTER?
WHA...?
EVEN THOUGH...

CAN YOU STILL SAY YOU'LL STICK AROUND KNOWING THAT?! CAN YOU, HUH?!!
GRRR
EVEN THOUGH I'M A FREAK WITH A DEMONIC LEFT EYE THAT'LL DO GOD KNOWS WHAT?!!
THUMP
EVERY-BODY'S LEFT ME! IT'S ALWAYS BEEN THAT WAY!!
LITTLE MONSTER WITH A DEMON'S EYE, THEY SAID.
FREAK. DEVIL-CHILD. WITCH. THEY ALL CALLED ME THAT AND WORSE.
BACK WHEN I GOT A GLIMPSE INSIDE HER "DARKNESS"!
I SAW THIS!
SO DROP THE "GOOD SAMARITAN" ACT ALREADY, SUMIRE.
I CREEPED THEM OUT THAT BADLY! AND WHO CAN BLAME THEM? THEY'RE RIGHT. I AM A MONSTER.
NOBODY EVER WANTED TO COME NEAR ME... EVEN TO ADMIT THEY KNEW ME!

?!
I GROSS YOU OUT TOO, DON'T I?! ADMIT IT!!
YOU COMING AFTER ME EVERY TIME YOU GO BERSERK IS PROOF!!
B-BUT...
YOU DON'T GROSS ME OUT, LUCIA-SAN. I SWEAR!
GAK
.....
FIGHT ME.
C'MON!!
YOU WANNA BREAK ME? WELL, HERE'S YOUR CHANCE!!
WHA ?!
WSH

!!
BLAM
KLANG
NH ...!
AH ...
BREAK HER...
URK ...!
COME ON...
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

HNN...
NGH...
GRIND
RRK...
N-NO!
BREAK HER!
WH-WHAT I SHOULD BREAK IS...
DO IT!!!
.....!!
NPH!
WSH
RGH!

HOW COULD I?

I MEAN...

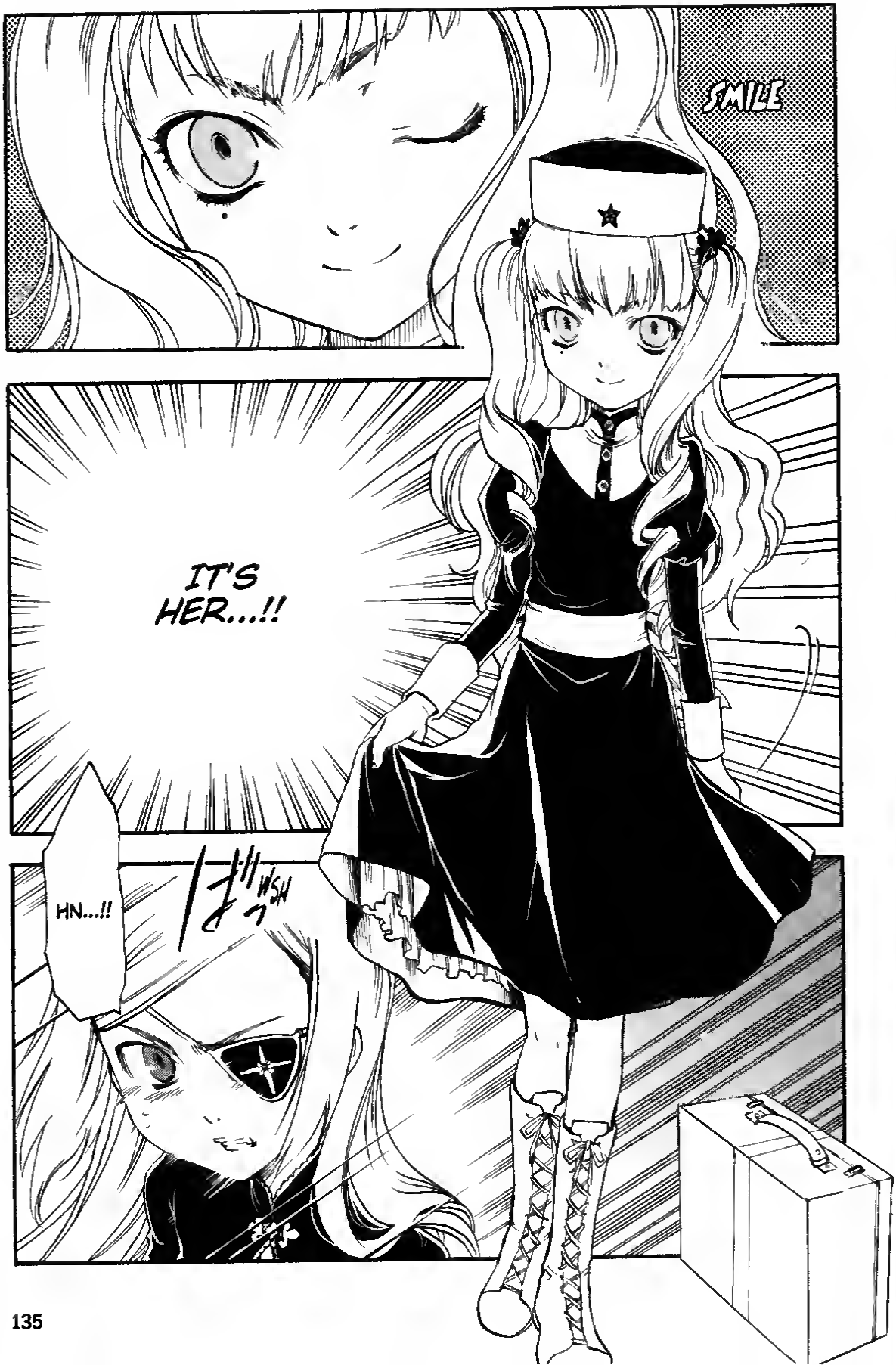
WE'RE FRIENDS, REMEMBER?
.....
SUMIRE...
CLAP
CLAP
BRAVO!!
BRAVO!!

WHA...?
AHHH... THAT WAS SUCH A BEAUTIFUL SCENE. ♪
ろ
ROLL!
わ
HEE HEE HEE! ♥
レ
ッ

MY NAME IS LOLA. PLEASED TO MEET YOU.
OH, AND I'LL BE STAYING HERE WITH YOU FOR AWHILE. ♥
WHAT THE...?!
THE GIRL FROM BEFORE...!

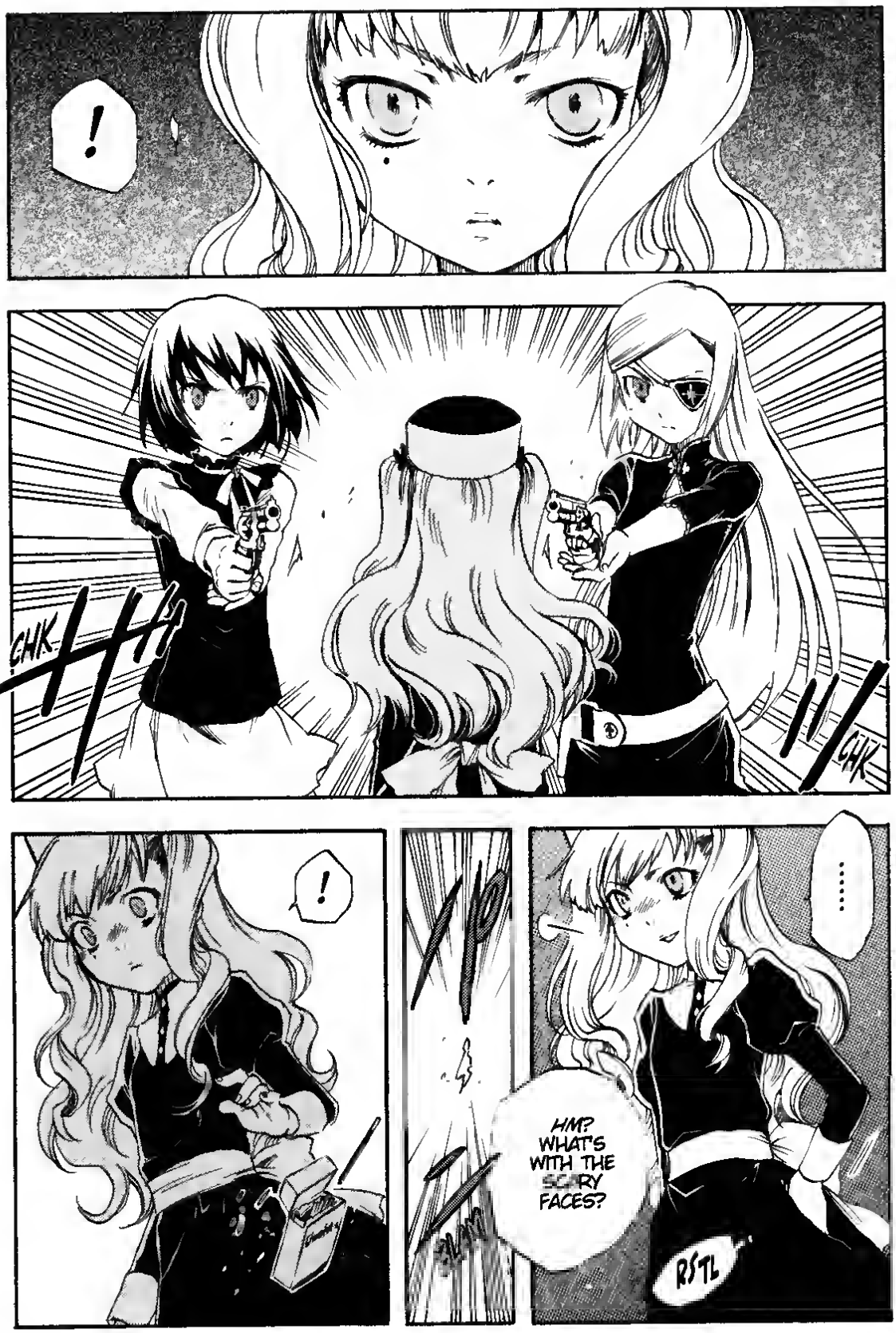
Jewelry
and
Clothes

Venus Vangard


SMILE
IT'S HER...!!
HN...!!
WISH

Piece 18

SWEETNESS. LANDMINES.


!
CHK-
CHK
!
.....
HM? WHAT'S WITH THE SCARY FACES?
RSTL

MY CHOCO-LATE...!!
MY...
!...
KRUNCH
KA-CHAK
THAT DOES IT!! NOW YOU PAY!!!
I KNEW SHE WAS AN ENEMY!!
WHAT THE HECK?!

!!
YEEEEEK!!!
TAT
TAT
TAT
TAT
?!
RATTA
RATTA
HUH?! THEY'RE NOT REAL BULLETS ...?!
THEY'RE JUST... CHOCO-LATE?!
KRAL
.....
SWF
HERE YA GO!
TOSS
HAVE A CHOCOLATE BOMB!!
SWIRL
SWOOOOO
ACK!

HUH?
SPLIP
SHUK
LUCIA-SAN...
SWF
OOF!
!
WSH
CONSIDER YOUR TOYS CONFISCATED, KID.
SKSHH

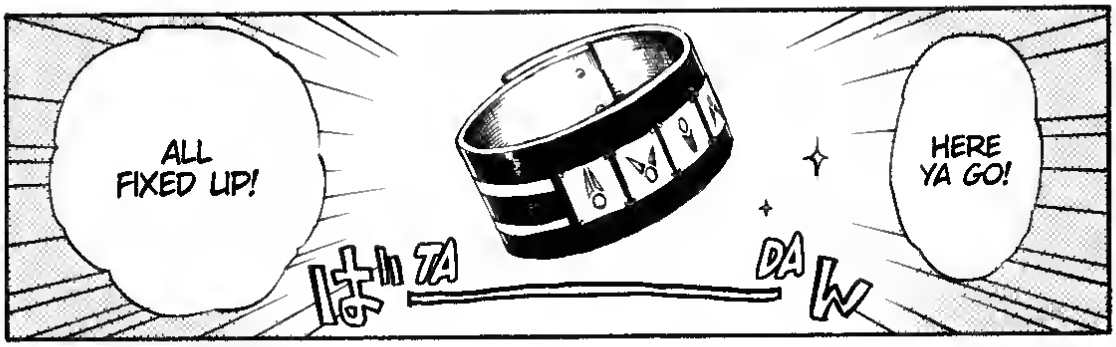
!
GRIK
SWP
WHO SENT YOU? WHAT WERE YOU TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH, WEASELING YOUR WAY IN HERE?
ALL RIGHT, TIME TO TALK.
AH...
EEP...!
?!
SWAP
EVERY-THING YOU WANT TO KNOW IS IN HERE!
IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A LITTLE LICK! THAT'S ALL!
O-OKAY, OKAY! I GET THE PICTURE!
I GIVE UP! I SUR-RENDER! YEESH!!

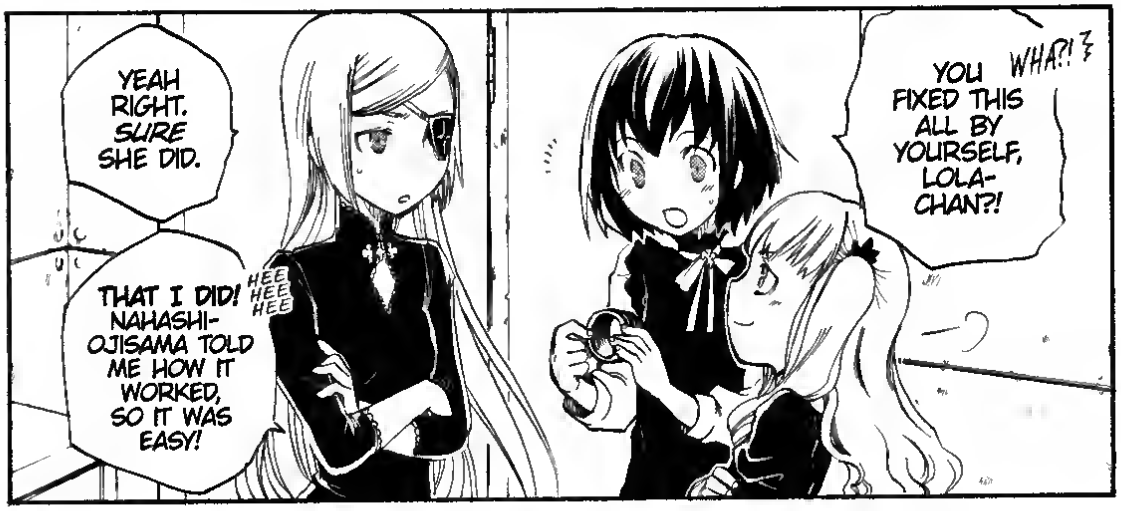
Dear Lucia and Sumire-kun,
I have sent my master's granddaughter, Lola, to stay with you. Please be pleasant and considerate hostesses.
Nahashi
WELL, THIS DOES LOOK LIKE NAHASHI'S HANDWRITING, BUT STILL...
IS THIS ALL THE PROOF YOU HAVE?
HUNH ...
YOU STILL DOUBT ME?!
HEY!!
STARE
YOU TWO NEED TO SERIOUSLY WORK ON YOUR CUSTOMER SERVICE SKILLS!!
YEESH! I CAME HERE AS A GUEST, BUT YOU TWO HAD THE NERVE TO TRY AND SHOOT ME LIKE I WAS SOME SORT OF ENEMY OR SOMETHING!
BLAH
NAHASHI-OJISAMA ASKED ME TO COME ALL THE WAY OVER HERE TO HELP YOU TWO OUT!!
THAT LETTER'S NOT FAKE! EVERY-THING IN IT IS TRUE!

I'M GOING TO GET STARTED UNPACKING, OKAY?
BOUNCE
ぴょこん
THE REST OF MY THINGS ARE ALL UPSTAIRS. BACK IN A MINUTE! ♪
BUT ANY-WAYS!
SWISH
シ
OOH! ❤
I'LL USE THIS STORAGE ROOM, OKAY? GREAT!
KCHK
OH, AND THIS IS THE ROOM YOU TWO SHARE. HM...
AHA! THIS MUST BE NAHASHI-OJISAMA'S ROOM.
PUTTER
ちょこ
THERE! ALL DONE!
どだばた
H-HEY! WAIT A MINUTE...!
DAAAZE...
……

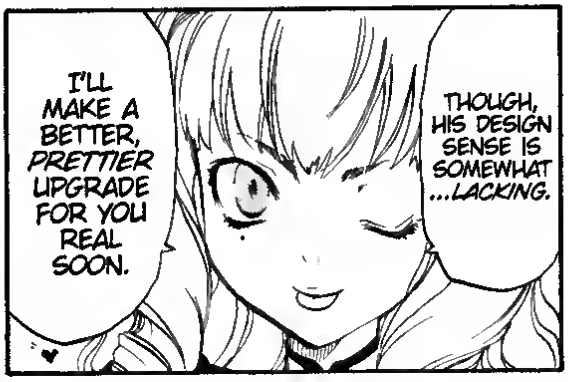
SPARKLE
MAY I PRESENT... MY ROOM!!
TA-DA!
SO? WHAT DO YOU THINK?
OH, AND I BORROWED SOME OF YOUR OLD STUFF. HOPE YOU DON'T MIND!
WOW...! IT'S ONLY BEEN A FEW MINUTES, BUT THIS ROOM IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT!
STARE
HEE HEE! SO, WHAT DO YOU SAY WE GET STARTED, THEN? ♪
"THAT"?
WORK, OF COURSE!
SUMIRE, CAN I SEE THAT?
GET STARTED? ON WHAT?

SURE... BUT IT'S BROKEN.
OH, YOU MEAN MY BRACELET...?
HNH.
WOW...
HMM...
HUH?!
LIM, WELL, HE DID SAY IT WAS EXPERI-MENTAL...
THIS IS SO UNFASH-IONABLE.
?
?
.....?
OH, AND I'M GOING TO NEED SOME VACCINE REFILLS FOR THIS, TOO!
AH WELL. YOU DON'T MIND IF I USE NAHASHI-OJISAMA'S ROOM, RIGHT? GOOD!

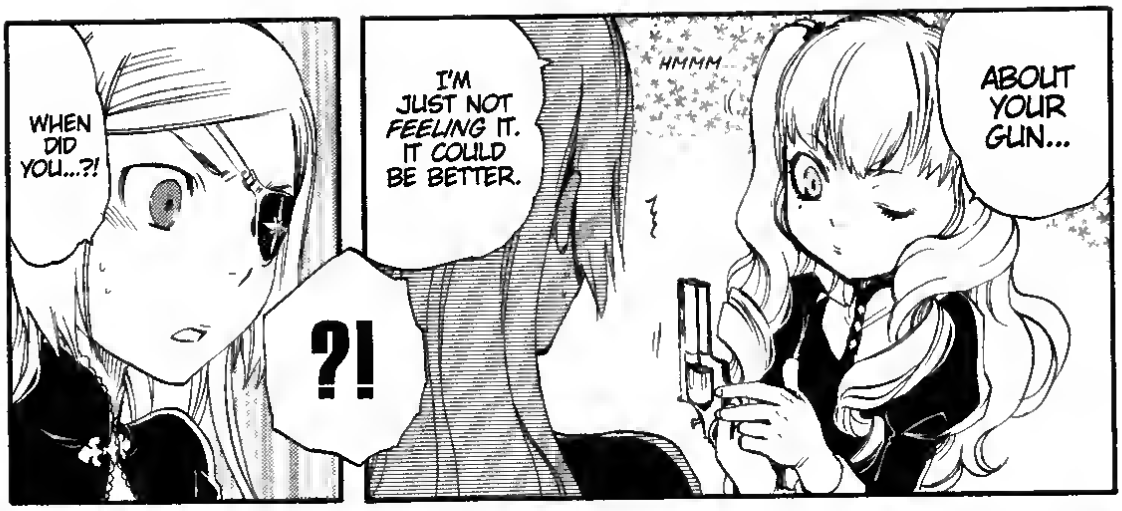

ALL FIXED UP!
HERE YA GO!
ばぁん
ZA
DA
N

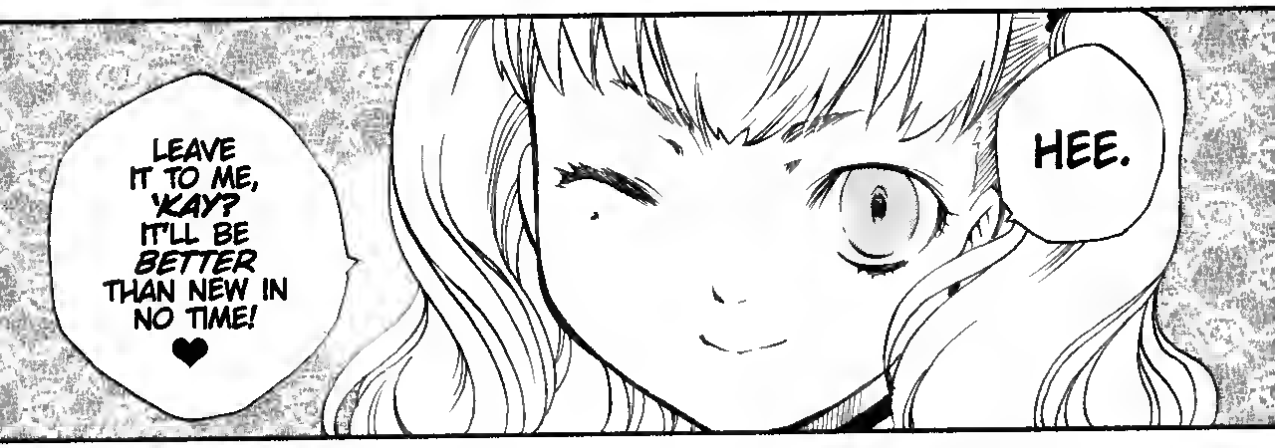

YEAH RIGHT. SURE SHE DID.
THAT I DID! NAHASHI-OJISAMA TOLD ME HOW IT WORKED, SO IT WAS EASY!
HEE HEE HEE
YOU FIXED THIS ALL BY YOURSELF, LOLA-CHAN?!
WHA?!

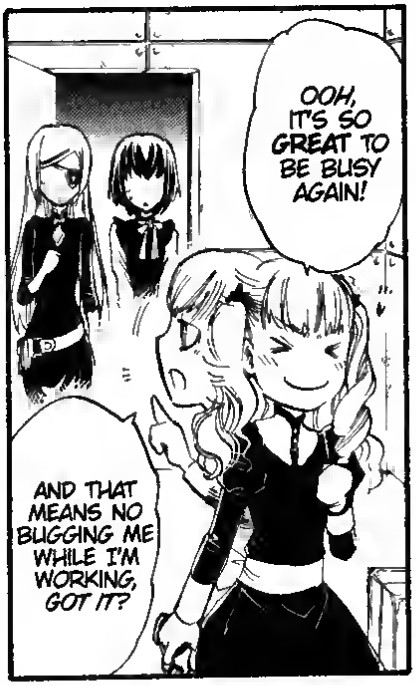
SIGH
OH, AND LUCIA?

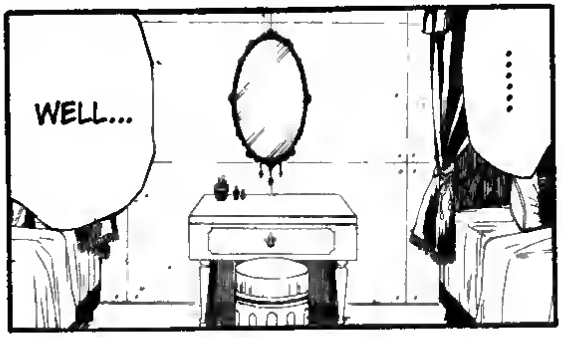

I'LL MAKE A BETTER, PRETTIER UPGRADE FOR YOU REAL SOON.
THOUGH, HIS DESIGN SENSE IS SOMEWHAT ...LACKING.

THAT'S INCREDIBLE !!
WHOA, THAT ...
SPARKLE


ABOUT YOUR GUN...
HMMM
I'M JUST NOT *FEELING* IT. IT COULD BE BETTER.
?!
WHEN DID YOU...?!


HEE.
LEAVE IT TO ME, 'KAY? IT'LL BE *BETTER* THAN NEW IN NO TIME!


OOH, IT'S SO GREAT TO BE BUSY AGAIN!
AND THAT MEANS NO BUGGING ME WHILE I'M WORKING, GOT IT?

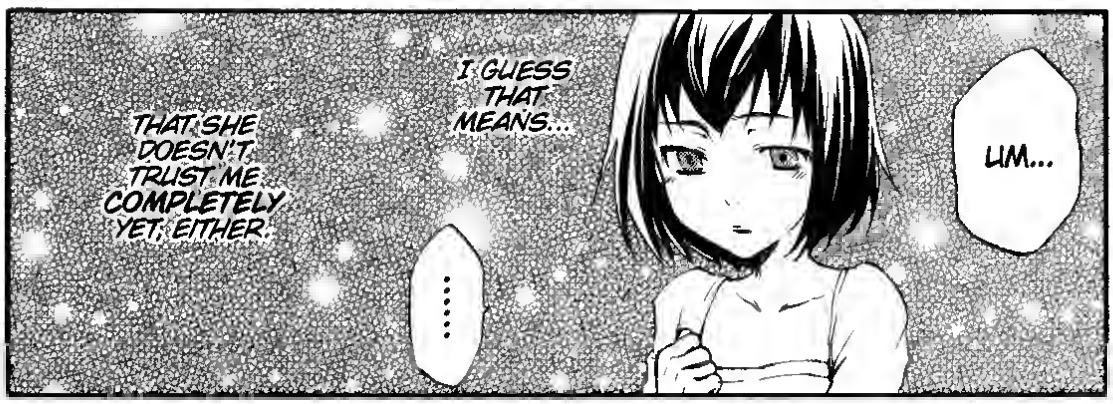

.....
WELL...

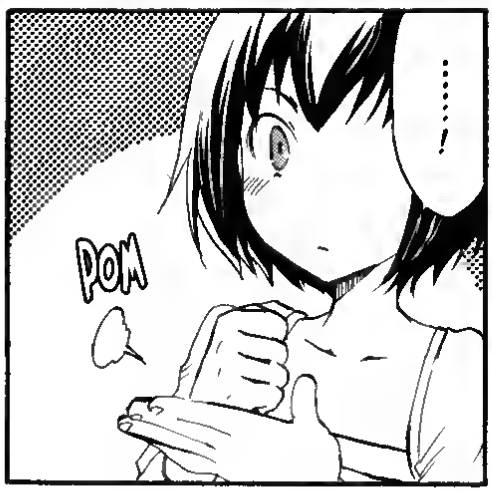
IT LOOKS LIKE NAHASHI-SAN'S ROOM GOT SWIPED OUT FROM UNDER YOU.

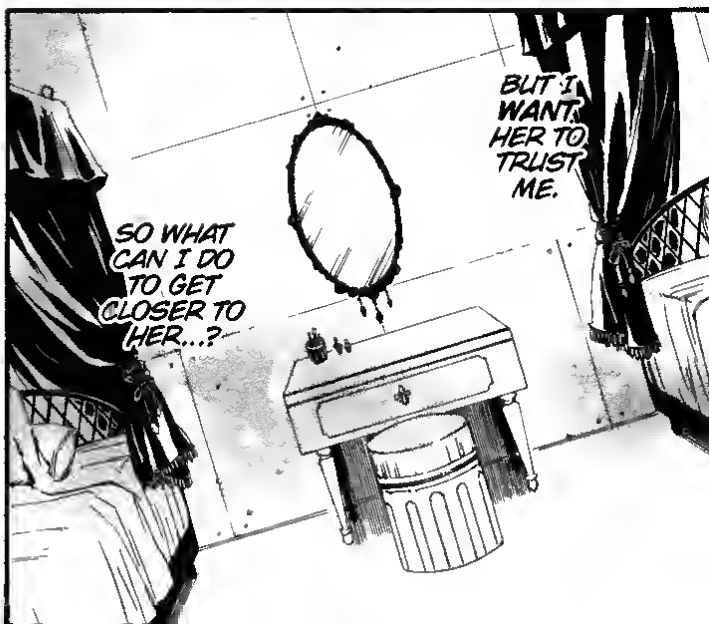
LUCIA-SAN ONLY SLEPT IN NAHASHI-SAN'S ROOM FOR A FEW DAYS...
IT'S WEIRD.
.....
SIGH
GOD...
UM... AH...
BUT IT FEELS LIKE AGES SINCE WE LAST SHARED A ROOM.
LOLA-CHAN SURE IS A STRANGE GIRL, ISN'T SHE?
WHY WOULD SHE BE ACTING ?
BECAUSE IT'S STILL POSSIBLE SHE'S OUR ENEMY.
IT COULD ALL BE AN ACT.
YOU GOT THAT RIGHT.
SO DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN.
I THINK WE CAN TRUST HER.
OH?
BUT, UM...
I...

.....
OH REALLY.
WHAT MAKES YOU SO SURE?
URK!
UM, WELL... I, UH, I GUESS YOU COULD SAY...
THAT I JUST HAVE A GOOD FEELING ABOUT HER.
SIGH...
YOU ARE SUCH A SOFTIE!
JUST BECAUSE SHE LOOKS NICE DOESN'T MEAN SHE IS!
THIS WORLD IS FULL OF SWEET-FACED BASTARDS WITH ULTERIOR MOTIVES.
OH. I... GUESS SO.
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT...
BUT...

I GROSS YOU OUT TOO, DON'T I?! ADMIT IT!!
AH...!
IT... ISN'T EASY...
JUST TRUSTING SOMEONE BEFORE THEY GIVE YOU GOOD REASON TO.
I HAVE TO ADMIT, I'M A LITTLE JEALOUS.


THAT SHE DOESN'T TRUST ME COMPLETELY YET, EITHER.
I GUESS THAT MEANS...
.....
UM...


.....!
POM


BUT I WANT HER TO TRUST ME.
SO WHAT CAN I DO TO GET CLOSER TO HER...?

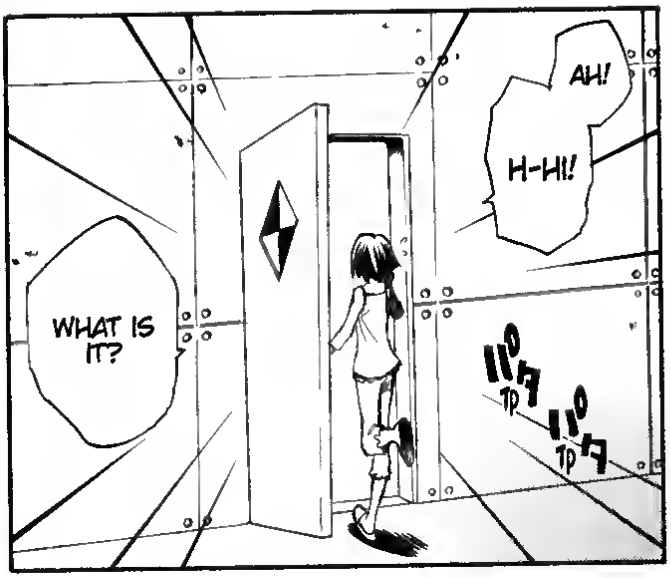
DO YOU MIND IF I SLEEP OVER THERE? WITH YOU?
BLUSH
LUCIA-SAN?
UM...
SAY WHAT?!
PLIP
.....
SO YOU DON'T TRUST ME, THEN...?
TEAR
OH...
?!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE... STOP!!
HEY!
WAIT A MINUTE!

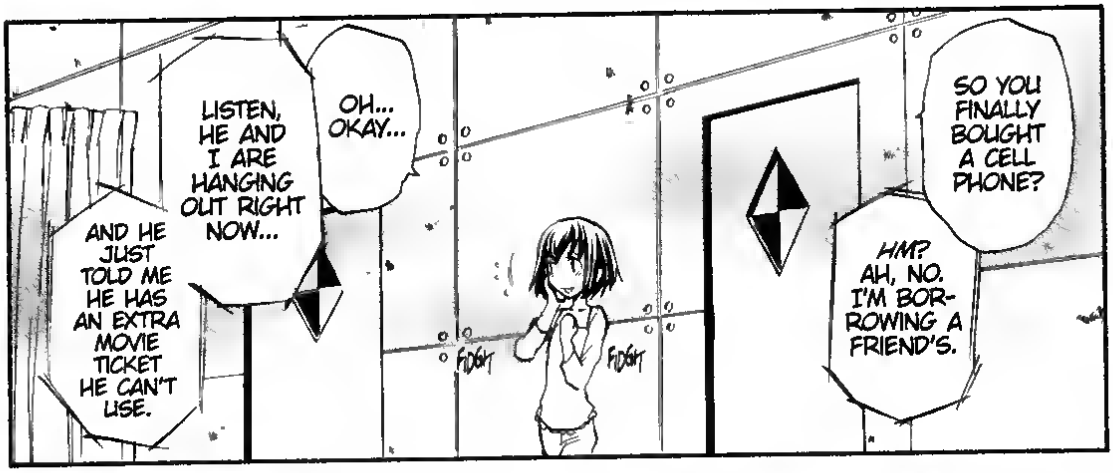
BUT...
.....
HUH...?! WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?!
BUT WE WERE JUST TALKING ABOUT IT!
AND IF YOU DO TRUST ME, WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME SLEEPING HERE?
SO I CAN? YAY!
GOD. WHAT-EVER.
POP
HEE HEE HEE! THE SHEETS SMELL LIKE TOBACCO AND ROSES ♪
MUTTER
MUTTER
WHEN DID SHE PICK UP THAT SLY, STUBBORN STREAK, ANYWAY?

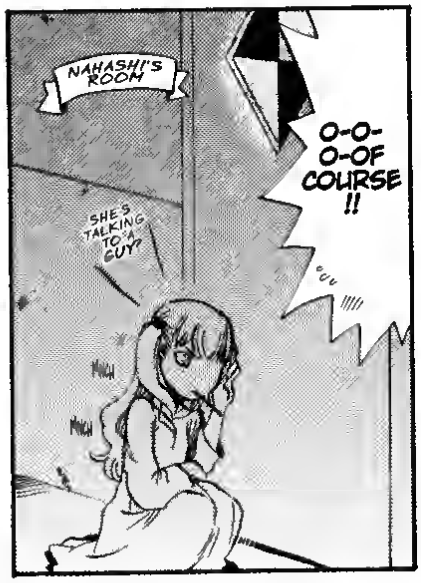
?
MUMBLE
AND... IT'S NOT...
THAT I DON'T TRUST YOU...
AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHY...
I DON'T WANT YOU TO GET TOO MUCH CLOSER.
YOUR CAREFREE WARMTH FEELS SO GOOD...
BUT...

THE MORE I GIVE IN TO IT...
THE MORE I...
CLCLCLCLCLK
OH, THAT'S MY CELL...
SHF
HM?
HELLO?
AN UN-KNOWN NUMBER ...
?
SORRY! I'LL GET IT!
YOSHIKI-SAN?!
BTHMP
AH... SUMIRE-CHAN?

...!
BATA


AH!
H-HI!
WHAT IS IT?
TP TP


SO YOU FINALLY BOUGHT A CELL PHONE?
HM? AH, NO. I'M BORROWING A FRIEND'S.
OH... OKAY...
LISTEN, HE AND I ARE HANGING OUT RIGHT NOW...
AND HE JUST TOLD ME HE HAS AN EXTRA MOVIE TICKET HE CAN'T USE.
FIDGET
FIDGET

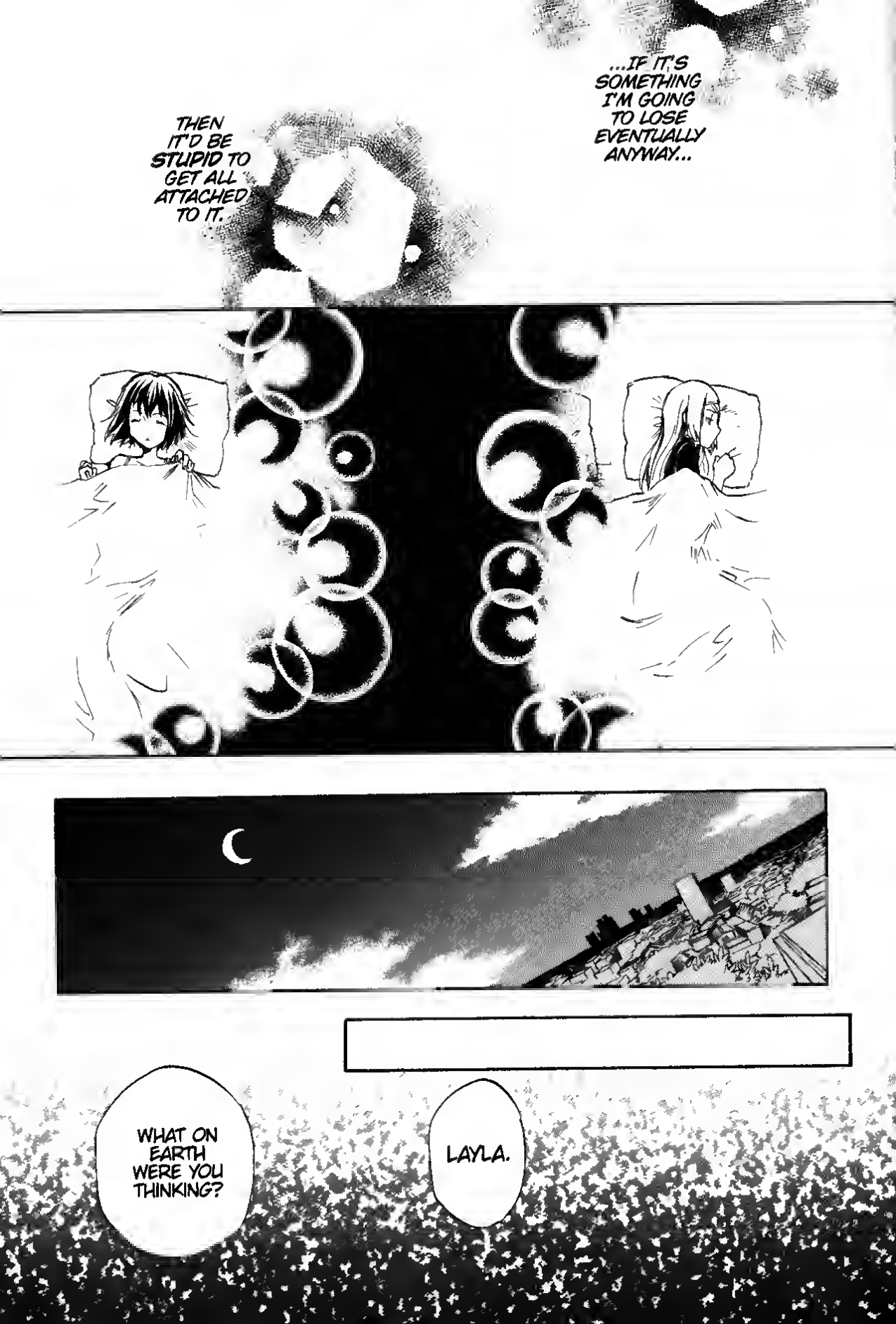

NAHASHI'S ROOM
O-O-O-OF COURSE!!
SHE'S TALKING TO A GUY?
MMM
MMM

SO I WAS JUST WONDERING IF, MAYBE...
YOU WANTED TO GO SEE A MOVIE WITH ME, SAY NEXT WEEK SOMETIME?
OH!
!!

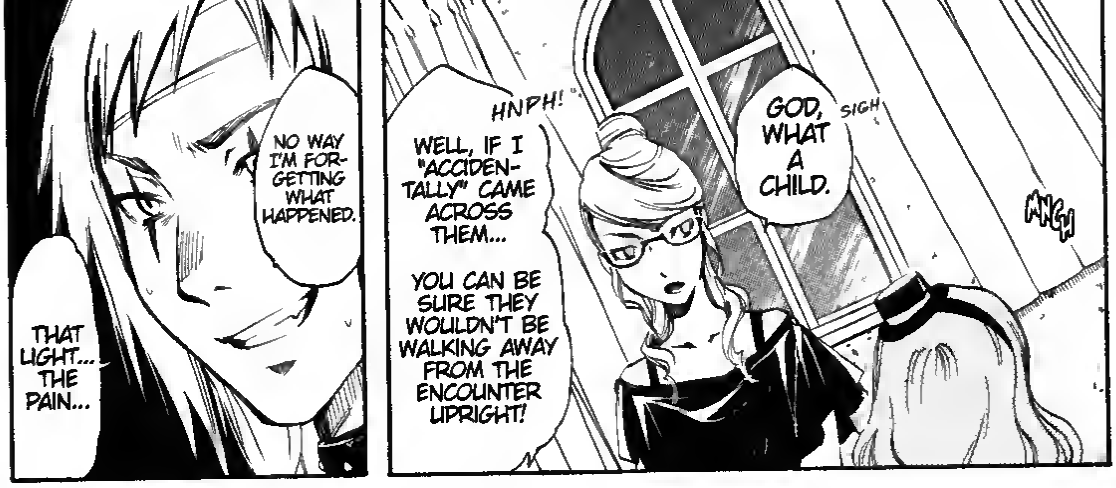
SWAP
...
REALLY?
PIP
GREAT. SEE YOU LATER.
HE'S NEVER CALLED ME BEFORE.
BTHMP BTHMP BTHMP
BTHMP BTHMP BTHMP
WELL, THAT SURE CAUGHT ME BY SURPRISE.
CLICK
WHEW...
PIP
SUMIRE! WHAT'S UP?!
HUH?
KKKKKK
HEE HEE
BUT NOW I KNOW HIS FRIEND'S CELL PHONE NUMBER! YAY!

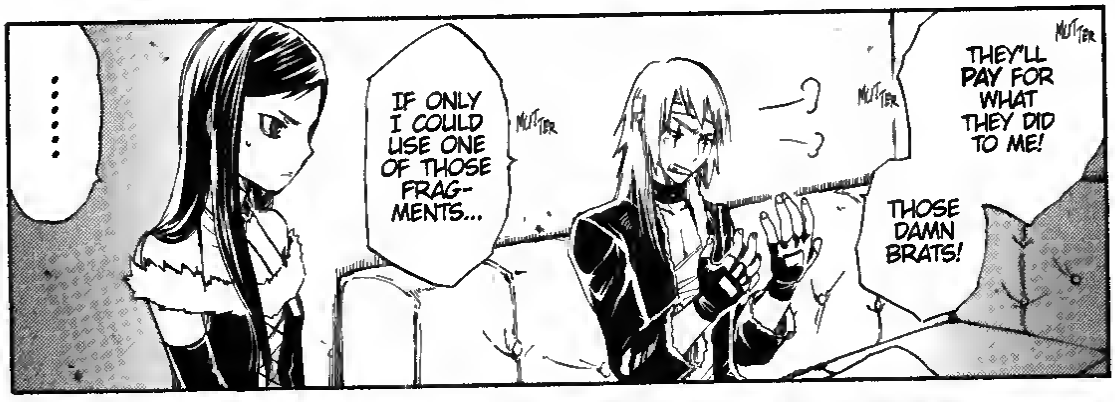
DORM
I JUST TALKED WITH KYOKO AND SHIZU.
HOW DOES TOMORROW SOUND?
AFTER THAT WE ALL HAVE TO HEAD HOME
AH! MIKA-CHAN!
GOD, I FINALLY GOT THROUGH!
ANYWAYS, SINCE IT'S SPRING BREAK AND ALL, YOU WANNA COME HANG OUT SOMETIME?
TOMOR-ROW? UM...
THAT'S KINDA SOON.
I MEAN, LOLA-CHAN JUST ARRIVED, AND LUCIA-SAN IS STILL, WELL...
AHA!! HESITA-TION!!
YOU'VE GOT A DATE WITH YOUR MAN TOMORROW, DON'T YOU?!
GRAWR!!!
THAT'S WHY YOUR PHONE WAS BUSY A MINUTE AGO, I BET!
N-N-NO!
HE WAS INVITING YOU OUT, YOU CHEAT!
THAT'S NOT IT, I SWEAR!
SHE'S ONLY HALF RIGHT
I HAVE AN IDEA!
DING
OH!
WHY DON'T WE ALL...
SURE, I CAN HANG OUT TOMORROW!

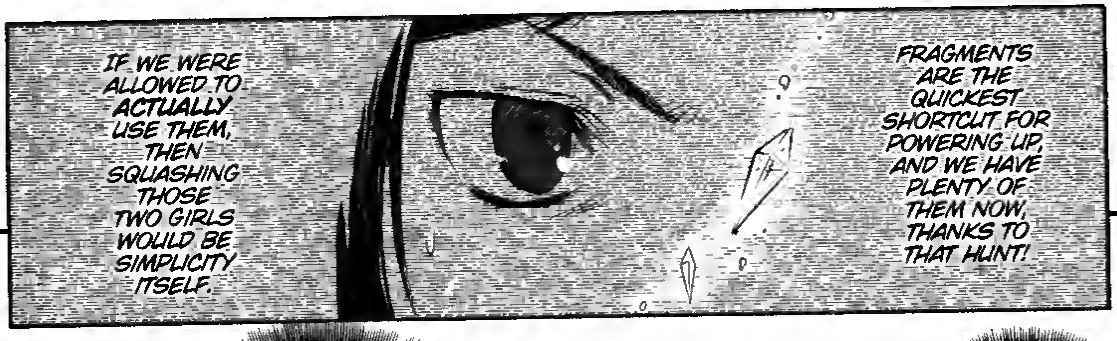
UH OH.
BAM
THERE ...
AH WELL. NOT MUCH I CAN DO ABOUT IT NOW.
LUCIA-SAN MUST'VE GOTTEN TIRED OF WAITING. I BET SHE'S ASLEEP ALREADY.
YES.
THIS IS FOR THE BEST.
I MEAN...
FD


...IF IT'S SOMETHING I'M GOING TO LOSE EVENTUALLY ANYWAY...
THEN IT'D BE STUPID TO GET ALL ATTACHED TO IT.
WHAT ON EARTH WERE YOU THINKING?
LAYLA.

YOU KNOW YOU WERE NOT SUPPOSED TO APPROACH THOSE TWO WITHOUT PERMISSION.
MNCH
SNAP
IT WAS AN AC-CIDENT.
I WENT OUT FOR A STROLL, AND THEY WERE THERE.
I DIDN'T "AP-PROACH" THEM.
I WASN'T LOOKING FOR THEM AT ALL...

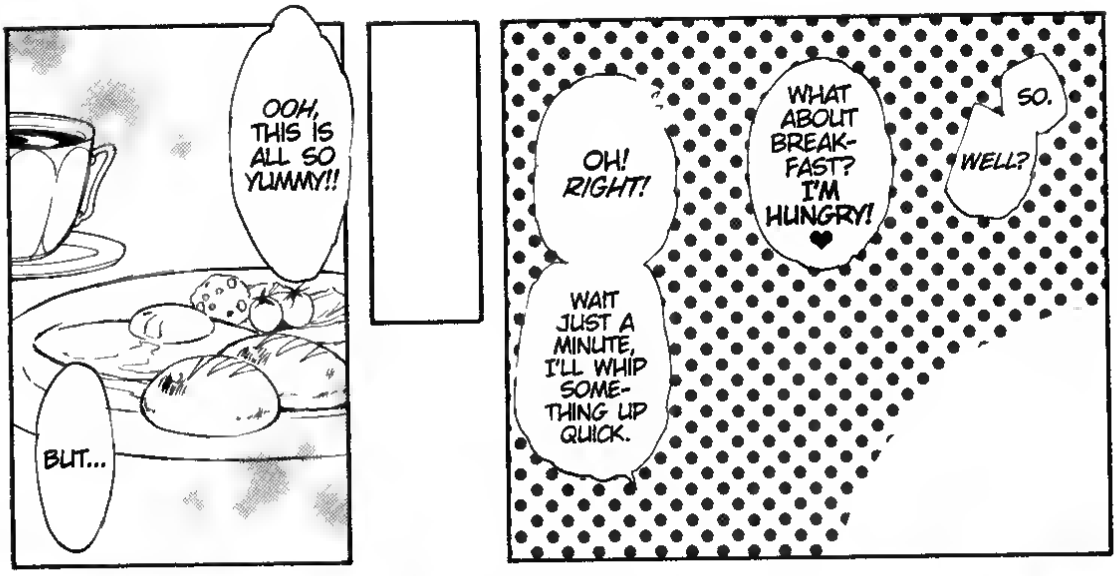

THAT LIGHT... THE PAIN...
NO WAY I'M FORGETTING WHAT HAPPENED.
HNPH!
WELL, IF I "ACCIDENTALLY" CAME ACROSS THEM...
YOU CAN BE SURE THEY WOULDN'T BE WALKING AWAY FROM THE ENCOUNTER UPRIGHT!
GOD, WHAT A CHILD.
SIGH
ANGRY


.....
IF ONLY I COULD USE ONE OF THOSE FRAGMENTS...
MUTTER
MUTTER
THOSE DAMN BRATS!
THEY'LL PAY FOR WHAT THEY DID TO ME!
MUTTER

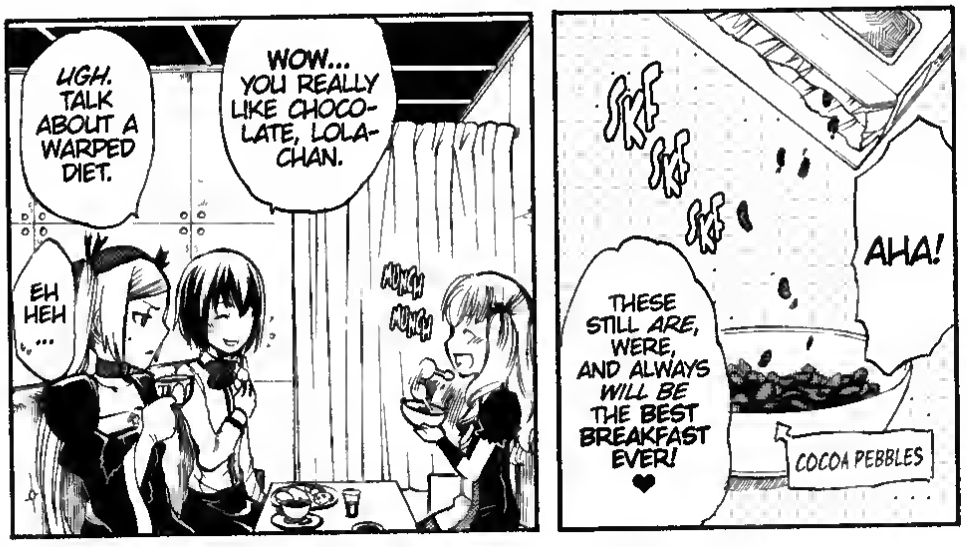

IF WE WERE ALLOWED TO ACTUALLY USE THEM, THEN SQUASHING THOSE TWO GIRLS WOULD BE SIMPLICITY ITSELF.
FRAGMENTS ARE THE QUICKEST SHORTCUT FOR POWERING UP, AND WE HAVE PLENTY OF THEM NOW, THANKS TO THAT HUNT!

AND TAKE HOLD OF ALL THE POWER SHE ALREADY HAS IN HER HANDS, THEN WE COULD HAVE EVERYTHING!!
IF ONLY SONOKA-SAMA WOULD TELL THAT AI-WHATEVER FREAK TO SHOVE IT...

AHEM.
ONE... TWO...
KCHAK
?!
GOOD MORNING, SLEEPY-HEADS!! UP AN' AT 'EM!!
!
YEP! GRAMPA'S ALMOST DEAF, AND I GOT TO WAKE HIM UP EVERY MORNING!
HEE HEE
THAT WAS A LITTLE LOUD, YOU KNOW....
WHAT THE HELL?!
AH... LOLA-CHAN ...?!


OOH, THIS IS ALL SO YUMMY!!
BUT...
SO.
WELL?
WHAT ABOUT BREAK-FAST? I'M HUNGRY!
OH! RIGHT!
WAIT JUST A MINUTE, I'LL WHIP SOME-THING UP QUICK.

STARE
THERE'S NO CHOCOLATE.
WHA?


UGH. TALK ABOUT A WARPED DIET.
WOW... YOU REALLY LIKE CHOCO-LATE, LOLA-CHAN.
EH HEH...
CRUNCH CRUNCH
AHA!
THESE STILL ARE, WERE, AND ALWAYS WILL BE THE BEST BREAKFAST EVER!
COCOA PEBBLES

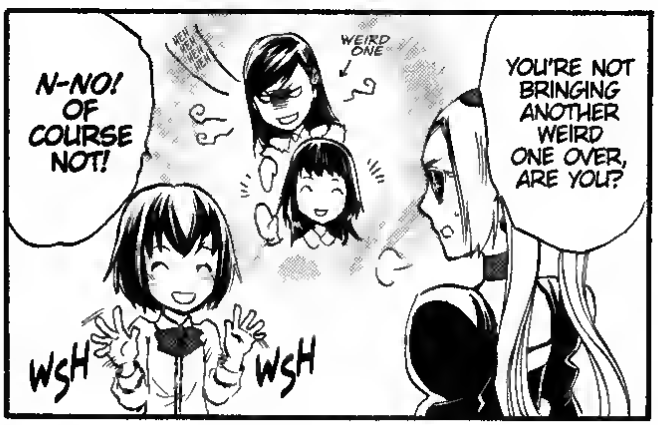
SHE CAME OUT AND STARTED EATING WITH US, AND I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TO COERCE HER!
IT LOOKS LIKE ALL THE FUSS AND HULLABALOO OF LOLA-CHAN'S WAKE UP CALL EVEN GOT TO LUCIA-SAN.
BUT...
I GUESS I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL TO HER.
?
GLOMP
?
THANK YOU, LOLA-CHAN!!
MMM, THAT WAS GOOD!
SEE YOU LATER!
I'M GOING TO GO TAKE A WALK, SINCE IT'S SO NICE OUTSIDE.
PLUS, I NEED TO GET A GOOD IDEA OF THE LAY OF THE LAND AROUND HERE.

I'M GOING TO FOLLOW HER.
WHA?!
LUCIA-SAN?
?
HUH? LOLA-CHAN, WAI--
TP TP TP TP TP
O-OH...
UM...
BUT...
STARE
I'M NOT TAKING ANY CHANCES. YOU CAN'T BE TOO CAREFUL, YOU KNOW.
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE SUR-PRISED.
WHAT ...?
WHY?
?
I-I'D RATHER YOU STAY AT THE SHOP TODAY.

I'D RATHER YOU HAD ASKED ME BEFORE-HAND.
YOU INVITED YOUR FRIENDS OVER?!

I COULDN'T SAY NO...
BUT EVERY-BODY'S BEEN WANTING TO COME SEE THE PLACE FOR A WHILE.
LIE
I...
I'M SORRY.

SO A-ANYWAYS, WE SHOULD PROBABLY CLEAN BEFORE THEY GET HERE, RIGHT?
.....
LIKE I BELIEVE THAT


N-NO! OF COURSE NOT!
NOT WEIRD NOT WEIRD NOT WEIRD
WEIRD ONE
YOU'RE NOT BRINGING ANOTHER WEIRD ONE OVER, ARE YOU?
WSH
WSH

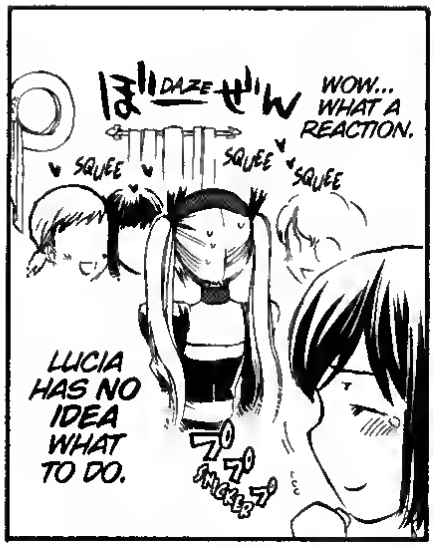
WE NEED TO MAKE SURE IT LOOKS NICE FOR OUR GUESTS!

I MEAN, WE'VE KINDA NEGLECTED THE SHOP FOR AWHILE NOW.

HAAAAH
THERE!
THIS PLACE LOOKS A LOT CLEANER NOW!

I THINK THEY SHOULD BE HERE ABOUT NOW...
YAMMER
YAMMER
HOPE WE'RE NOT INTRUDING!
AH!
THEY'RE HERE!
BAM
ONLY
HEE HEE
YEAH, I KNOW.
TROMP
TROMP
TROMP
TROMP
SQUEE!
WHAT A NEAT LITTLE STORE!
I'VE NEVER BEEN TO YOUR NEW PLACE BEFORE, SUMIRE. IT'S SO COOL!

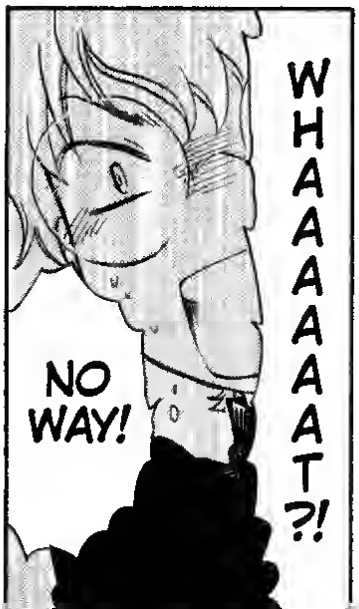
HM?
HEY, SUMIRE? ISN'T THERE SOMEONE ELSE WHO WORKS HERE?
KCHK
OHH!
THOSE SHOES ARE SO CUTE!
YEAH!
WHOA!
THIS PLACE IS A MAIDEN'S PARADISE !!
DROOL
OOOH...
TNK
WELCOME.
PLEASE, HAVE SOME TEA.
KYAAAAAAAAA!!
!!
?!

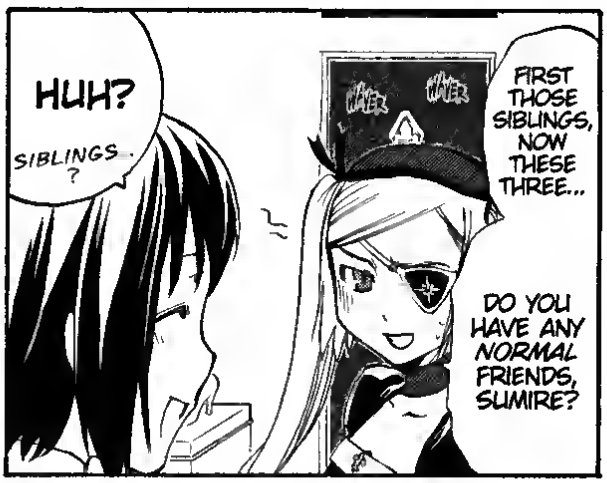

ぼいDAZEぜw
WOW... WHAT A REACTION.
SQUEE
SQUEE
SQUEE
LUCIA HAS NO IDEA WHAT TO DO.
ﾌﾌﾌ SNICKER

WHAT THE HECK?!
ど
わ
?!
OH MY GOSH, SHE'S SO PRETTY!
SHE'S THE STORE OWNER?!
YOU'RE LUCIA-SAN, RIGHT?!
わ
わ

I'M SHIZU!
I'M KYOKO!
I'M MIKA!
PREVIOUS MEMORIES LONG GONE...

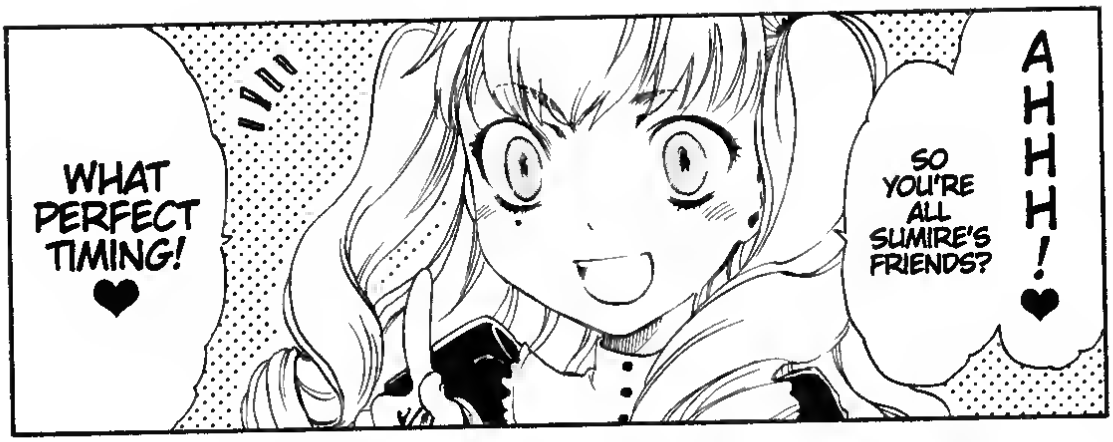
TH-THANK YOU.
AND, UM...
YOU THREE LADIES ARE...?
WAVE?

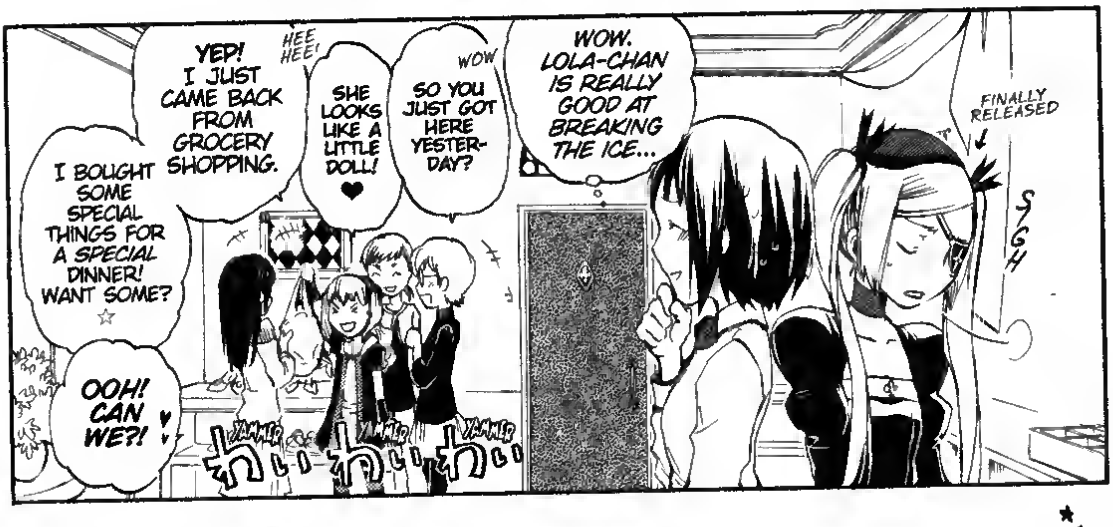

WHAAAAAAAT?!
NO WAY!


HUH?
SIBLINGS...?
FIRST THOSE SIBLINGS, NOW THESE THREE...
DO YOU HAVE ANY NORMAL FRIENDS, SUMIRE?

YAMMER
I DON'T BELIEVE IT! YOU LOOK SO MUCH MORE MATURE!!
HOW CAN WE GET TO BE MORE LIKE YOU?!
YOU'RE ONLY FIFTEEN ?!
BUT THAT MEANS YOU'RE ONLY ONE YEAR OLDER THAN US!
GONG
HEE HEE
WELL, YOU'RE CERTAINLY POPULAR.
SIGH
YEAH, LIKE SOME SORT OF RARE ZOO ANIMAL.
I BROUGHT SOME MORE TEA.
YAMMER
YAMMER
STAGGER
UM, EXCUSE ME A MOMENT...
HEE
OH, I WOULDN'T SAY THAT!
HM
GOD! TALK ABOUT A PAIN IN THE BUTT!
WHIRL
OH! IT
STAFF

Venus Vanguard
TA-DA
I'M HOOOME!
KYAAAAAAA!!!
(SECOND VERSE SAME AS THE FIRST)


AHHH!
SO YOU'RE ALL SUMIRE'S FRIENDS?
WHAT PERFECT TIMING!


WOW. LOLA-CHAN IS REALLY GOOD AT BREAKING THE ICE...
FINALLY RELEASED
SIGH
WOW
SO YOU JUST GOT HERE YESTER-DAY?
HEE HEE!
SHE LOOKS LIKE A LITTLE DOLL!
YEP! I JUST CAME BACK FROM GROCERY SHOPPING.
I BOUGHT SOME SPECIAL THINGS FOR A SPECIAL DINNER! WANT SOME?
OOH! CAN WE?!
YAWN
YAWN
YAWN

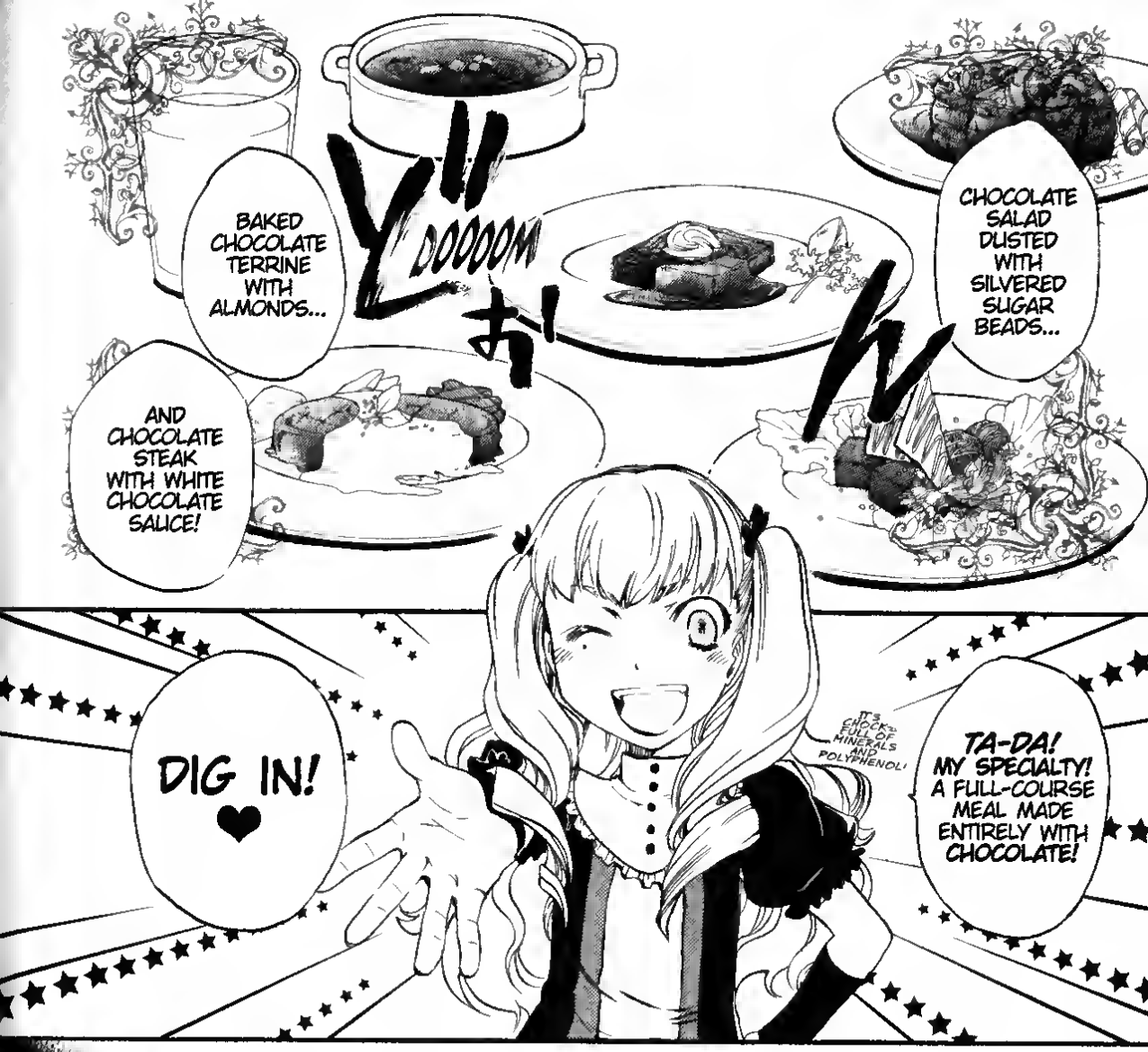
SHVR
YEE...
YOU SLY LITTLE DEVIL YOU!!
SHVR

SUMIRE...
PAT PAT

I'LL BE JUST A MINUTE!

ABOUT HOW YOU SUDDENLY SEEMED TO TURN ON THE PHEROMONES ONCE YOU LEFT THE DORM.
IT HAD MYSTI-FIED ME...
BUT NOW I KNOW WHY! IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE BATHED BY THESE BEAUTY-AURAS EVERY DAY!!
ADMIT IT!!
SAY WHA?
THIS...
WISH
YOU EAT FOOD PREPARED BY A BEAUTY!!
YOU EVEN USE THE SAME BATHTUB AS A GODDESS!!
NOT ONLY ARE YOU AROUND BEAUTIFUL ROOMIES...
BUT YOU DRINK TEA MADE BY A BEAUTY!
キーヤ
あ
あん
AHAHAHAHA!
MIKA'S IN RARE FORM TODAY
IS THE ULTIMATE ESTROGEN EDEN!!
IT'S SO GORGEOUS!

TINK
TINK
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING!
EVERY-THING'S ALL SET UP, SO PLEASE COME ON DOWN-STAIRS! ♥
ST
BTAM
ひよこクラブ
THIS...
GULP
THIS IS...


BAKED CHOCOLATE TERRINE WITH ALMONDS...
Y'll DOOOOM お
CHOCOLATE SALAD DUSTED WITH SILVERED SUGAR BEADS...
AND CHOCOLATE STEAK WITH WHITE CHOCOLATE SAUCE!
DIG IN!
IT'S CHOCK-FULL OF MINERALS AND POLYPHENOL!
TA-DA! MY SPECIALTY! A FULL-COURSE MEAL MADE ENTIRELY WITH CHOCOLATE!

GO! BEAUTY-AURA CHARGE!!
MUNCH CHOMP GOBBLE
UM MIKA? YOUR HANDS GOING SO FAST IT'S A BLUR
IT REALLY IS ALL CHOCOLATE

SONOKA-SAMA...
THERE'S SOMETHING I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU ABOUT, IF I MAY.
TO BE CONTINUED...

JAPANESE HONORIFICS GUIDE

To ensure that all character relationships appear as they were originally intended, all character names have been kept in their original Japanese name order with family name first and given name second. For copyright reasons, creator names appear in standard English name order.

In addition to preserving the original Japanese name order, Seven Seas is committed to ensuring that honorifics—polite speech that indicates a person's status or relationship towards another individual—are retained within this book. Politeness is an integral facet of Japanese culture and we believe that maintaining honorifics in our translations helps bring out the same character nuances as seen in the original work.

The following are some of the more common honorifics you may come across while reading this and other books:

-san – The most common of all honorifics, it is an all-purpose suffix that can be used in any situation where politeness is expected. Generally seen as the equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., Mrs., etc.

-sama – This suffix is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect upon an individual.

-dono – Stemming from the word "tono," meaning "lord," "-dono" signifies an even higher level than "-sama," and confers the utmost respect.

-kun – This suffix is commonly used at the end of boys' names to express either familiarity or endearment. It can also be used when addressing someone younger than oneself or of a lower status.

-chan – Another common honorific. This suffix is mainly used to express endearment towards girls, but can also be used when referring to little boys or even pets. Couples are also known to use the term amongst each other to convey a sense of cuteness and intimacy.

Sempai – This title is used towards one's senior or "superior" in a particular group or organization. "Sempai" is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to upperclassmen as "sempai," though it is also commonly said by employees when addressing fellow employees who hold seniority in the workplace.

Kouhai – This is the exact opposite of "sempai," and is used to refer to underclassmen in school, junior employees at the workplace, etc.

Sensei – Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

Oniisan – This title literally means "big brother." First and foremost, it is used by younger siblings towards older male siblings. It can be used by itself or attached to a person's name as a suffix (niisan). It is often used by a younger person toward an older person unrelated by blood, but as a sign of respect. Other forms include the informal "oniichan" and the more respectful "oniisama."

Oneesan – This title is the opposite of "oniisan" and means "big sister." Other forms include the informal "oneechan" and the more respectful "oneesama."

TRANSLATION NOTES

9.3 A *"kekkai"* is a magical barrier or ward.

50.6 *"Par avion"* is a French word for priority mail carried by airplane, as opposed to regular ground mail.

101.6 *"Sakura"* is the Japanese word for cherry trees. When they blossom in spring, many Japanese people gather to watch the blossoms bloom and fall, often holding picnics under the trees. Sakura blossoms are often compared to young love in poetry and art, both of which bloom and fade all too soon.

142.3 *"Ojisan"* is the Japanese word for 'uncle.' *"Ojisama"* conveys more respect on the part of the speaker. In this case, Lola is using *"Ojisama"* like a young English-speaker would use "Uncle" for a person they're fond of, but not really related to.

The Mystery Deepens...
Venus Versus Virus Vol. 5

COMING OCTOBER 2005

Venus versus Virus

ヴィーナス ヴァーサス ヴァイアラス

VOLUME 4

story & art by Atsushi Suzumi

STAFF CREDITS

translation	Adrienne Beck
adaptation	Janet Houck
cover design	Nicky Lim
retouch & lettering	Roland Amago
layout	Bambi Eloriaga-Amago
copy editor	Lori Smith
editor	Adam Arnold
publisher	Jason DeAngelis
	Seven Seas Entertainment

VENUS VERSUS VIRUS VOL. 4
© ATSUSHI SUZUMI 2007
First published in 2007 by Media Works Inc., Tokyo, Japan
English translation rights arranged with Media Works, Inc.

No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form without written permission from the copyright holders.

This is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

Seven Seas and the Seven Seas logo are trademarks of Seven Seas Entertainment, LLC. All rights reserved.

Visit us online at www.gomanga.com

ISBN: 978-1-933164-93-9

Printed in Canada

First printing: June 2008

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Venus Versus Virus

☆ヴィーナス ヴァーサス ヴァイアラス☆

OMAKE